

SUN VIEWS

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New Board Members Elected

The RCSC Board of Directors election results are in. The total number of ballots cast in this year's election totaled 1,213 (127 absentee ballots, 133 ballots at the poll and 953 electronic ballots cast online).

The successful candidates elected to serve on the RCSC Board beginning in 2018 are:

- Dan Schroeder who received 873 votes,
- Sue Wilson who received 752 votes, and
- Dale Lehrer who received 727 votes.



RCSC Directors are elected to serve three-year terms. The newly elected Board Members were installed on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 9:00 am at the regular Board meeting in the Sundial Auditorium. Those elected will be seated as of January 1, 2018.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve the community. Outgoing Board Members are President Rich Hoffer, Treasurer Carol Lawry and Director Ida Eisert who completed their terms of service on the Board on December 31, 2017.

Mandatory Club Officer Training at Sundial

All RCSC Chartered Clubs are reminded of Club Officer Training this month. There are two sessions offered and attendance by all board positions is required.

Both training sessions will be held in the Sundial Auditorium as follows: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 from 1:00 to 4pm, and Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 9:00am to noon.

After a complete review of Board Policy 12, there will be break-out sessions specifically for Presidents, Treasurers and Publicity Chairs. We look forward to seeing you there! Please contact the Lakeview Clubs & Activities Office at 623-561-4660 if you have any questions.



Above: Newly elected RCSC Board of Directors Members pose in the Lakeview Board Room on Election Night are, from left to right, Sue Wilson, Dan Schroeder and Dale Lehrer.

LRP Committee Members Announced

The selection committee of the RCSC Board of Directors has announced the nine members who will be seated on the reinstated Long Range Planning Committee:

- Rich Peterson
- Bill Loslo
- Jean Buck
- James McConnell
- Gary Osier
- Norm Dickson
- Peggy Loren
- Lynn Lybolt
- David VanderNaalt

The Board Director selected as President in 2018 will be responsible for appointing the Chair and Co-Chair for this committee (as well as all other RCSC committees) early next year as part of the appointment approval process.

Special thanks are extended to the following RCSC Board Directors of the selection committee for their hard work and attention to detail during this process: Secretary Stella VanNess, Director Jerry Walczak and Director Bruce Alleman.

All RCSC Committees meet in the Lakeview Center Board Room (upper level) and scheduled meetings dates, times can be found on the website at www.suncityaz.org under the RCSC tab.

UF SC Recreation Centers (Governance Board) General

Wednesday,
Dec. 13, 2017

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ASSESSMENT

RCSC prepares 2018 budget

No increase in assessment planned

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials could drop a pleasant surprise in cardholders Christmas stockings when they consider the 2018 corporate budget.

The RCSC board will meet 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21 in the auditorium at Sundial Recreation

Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., to consider a 2018 budget that projects lower income and higher expenses than the 2017 proposed budget. But there will be no proposed increase in cardholders' annual property assessments.

Residents first saw the proposed budget motion at the



Rich Hoffer



Recreation Centers of Sun City officials are preparing to begin renovations of the Grand Avenue property they purchased to remedy an expanding need for more club space in the community. [Jacob Stanek/Independent Newsmedia file photo]

Dec. 4 member/director exchange meeting. But the document did not address the property assessment and board members were mum on the subject until resident Norm Philking asked if there would

be an increase. "I'm glad you asked that question," said Rich Hoffer, RCSC board president. "No." Mr. Philking who often lends a touch of humor to RCSC meetings with his remarks,

then asked if there would be a decrease. "No," Mr. Hoffer answered. The proposed 2018 budget estimates \$21.6 million in income. That is expected to cover estimated increases in pay-

roll taxes and benefits; utilities; operating expenses; taxes, insurance and other expenses; and capital projects and equipment from the general fund. The only categories expected

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RCSC

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to be lower in 2018 are cost of good sold, wages and repair and maintenance.

Last year at this time RCSC officials proposed — and eventually approved — a \$22 property assessment increase, bringing the annual cost to cardholders to \$496. Officials said the increase last year was due to Arizona voters in November 2016 approving a state-wide minimum wage increase. The minimum wage — previously at \$8.50 per hour — went to \$10 in 2017, and will increase to \$10.50 in 2018, \$11 in 2019 and

IF YOU GO:

What: Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors

When: 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21

Where: Auditorium at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

\$12 in 2020.

"I am as sick about having to raise these fees as you are," Mr. Hoffer said during the December 2016 member/director exchange meeting. "I do not want to vote for these increases but when Arizona voters passed Proposition 206 they gave me no choice."

At the time, 55 percent of RCSC's employees were mak-

ing less than the new minimum wage as of Jan. 1, 2017, and 65 percent were Sun City residents, he added.

"Every other active retirement community in the state is in the same position we are," Mr. Hoffer said.

While it was not included in the motions for the December board meeting, Mr. Hoffer, in answer to resident Anthony Britenal's question at the Dec. 4 exchange meeting, said the board is considering a \$3 million preservation and improvement fund project for 2018 to renovate the Grand Avenue property. He said the property needs repair and renovation to accommodate the three clubs moving there and other uses identified for the property by the corporation's ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee.

RCSC officials purchased the former China Olive Super Buffet at 10415 W. Grand Ave., on the southwest corner of Grand and 103rd avenues. The property includes a 10,000-square-foot structure on just more than three acres. RCSC officials said the property was purchased for \$750,000 in May 2016 to provide additional space needed by clubs and other Sun City organizations.

The committee's recommendations were to locate the Sun City Clay Club from Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., and the Camera Guild Club from Sundial Recreation Center to the property building. The structure would also house a Sun City Garden Club office, storage space and green house; a branch office for the Sun City Posse; and classroom space to be available for various clubs and RCSC.

"There is landscaping that needs done and the parking lot needs repair," Mr. Hoffer said.

The interior also needs to be prepared for the incoming groups, he added.

"Right now it is an empty shell," Mr. Hoffer said.

The committee also recommended the property be designed for construction of additional buildings for the Vintage Vehicle Club of Sun City and an archery range for the Sun City Outdoor Sportsman's Club. The committee also recommended the Piano Club at Sundial move into the vacated Camera Guild space.

Mr. Britenal asked if any of the \$3 million was targeted to begin work on a structure for the Vintage Vehicle Club.

"No funds are set aside for the car club, but we are working on some things for the club," Mr. Hoffer said.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.

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BUILDING

Filling Grand space

RCSC board to vote on recommendations

By **Rusty Bradshaw**
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors is ready to vote on recommendations for use of the building it purchased on Grand Avenue and one club is not happy with the plan.

RCSC officials purchased the former China Olive Super Buffet at 10415 W. Grand Ave., on the southwest corner of Grand and 103rd avenues. The property includes a 10,000-square-foot structure on just more than three acres. RCSC officials said the property was purchased for \$750,000 in May 2016 to provide additional space needed by clubs and other Sun City organizations.

To determine the use for the property, RCSC of-



Sun City resident John Bramer talks Sept. 11 to the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors about the proposal for use of the building at 103rd and Grand Avenue. [Rusty Bradshaw/Independent Newsmedia]

officials reactivated its Long Range Planning Committee to serve in an ad-hoc

role to research uses and make recommendations, which were presented to

the board during the summer. The board will consider

the recommendations for final vote during its next
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Building

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regular business meeting, 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 28 in the auditorium at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

The committee's recommendations were to locate the Sun City Clay Club from Lakeview Recreation Center and the Camera Guild Club from Sundial Recreation Center to the property building. The structure would also house a Sun City Garden Club office, storage space and green house; a branch office for the Sun City Posse; and classroom space to be available for various clubs and RCSC.

The committee also recommended the property be designed for construction of additional buildings for the Vintage Vehicle Club of Sun City and an archery range for the Sun City Outdoor Sportsman's Club. The committee also recommended the Piano Club at Sundial move into the vacated Camera Guild space.

No timetable was included in the recommendation. Rich Hoffer, RCSC board president, said that would be determined by the board with input from the newly reactivated Long Range Planning Committee as a standing advisory panel.

Vintage Vehicle Club of Sun City members were not happy with the recommended property uses.

"We are very disappointed, to say the least," said John Bramer, club member, during the RCSC member/director exchange meeting Sept. 11.

He praised the ad-hoc committee's work.

"The committee did a

great job of analyzing data," said Mr. Bramer, who attended most of the ad-hoc meetings. "Their stat analysis of the data said the vintage vehicle club was the number one use for the building."

Mr. Hoffer said it was not the committee's task to assign a priority to club use for the property.

"I spent a lot of time bringing the committee back to its original intent," he said. "Their task was to recommend what went on the property, not where on the property it should go."

Scott Dunkers, Vintage Vehicle Club member, said the board's decision to not include the club in the building plans and its refusal to provide a date when the club's needs would be addressed is unfair to the group. He added club members were given the impression their group would be included in the building.

"We were getting good feedback from people that we would be getting the building," he said.

Mr. Hoffer said no one from the board promised the vehicle club would get the building. He also said the board could not give a date for addressing the club's needs because that has not been determined yet.

"I can't give you something I don't have," he told Mr. Dunkers. "I don't know what future boards will do and I don't know that this board will get to it within this year."

Mr. Bramer said the vehicle club wants to pursue an option similar to what the Auto Restoration Club in Sun City West did — fund the construction of their own building. The Recre-

IF YOU GO:

What: Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors meeting
When: 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 28
Where: Sundial Recreation Center auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

ation Centers of Sun City West club qualified as a 501(c)3 organization due to charity work it was already doing and did not have to form a separate foundation, according to Herb Clark, club member.

"The IRS told us we qualified without applying" Mr. Clark said.

ARC members then gathered about half the construction cost from member pledges and borrowed the rest from RCSCW.

"They said they wouldn't give us the money but would lend it," Mr. Clark said. "They believed it was good for the community because of the charity work we were doing."

RCSC chartered clubs that raise funds must donate 50 percent raised back to RCSC unless they form a 501(c)3 foundation, according to Jan Ek, RCSC general manager.

"All chartered clubs are under the RCSC 501(c)4 umbrella," she said.

She explained if a chartered club formed a 501(c)3 for the club, it could not be an RCSC chartered club. However, it could keep its chartered club status intact by setting up a separate 501(c)3 entity.

"We want to do it right and we need some guidance," Mr. Bramer said.

Ms. Ek said club members can work with her on a solution for its fundraising and keeping its chartered club status.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.

RCSC

RCSC reviewing policies

Residents complain about swimming, smoking

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials will take a closer look at policies regarding swimming and smoking at rec centers facilities.

Responding to concerns two residents raised during the monthly member/director exchange meeting Sept. 11, Chris Herring, RCSC assistant general manager, said officials are regularly reviewing policies and making changes where needed.

Resident Joe Piazza wanted to see a change in the restriction against using paddle boards in some RCSC pools. He uses a paddle board at the Bell Recreation Center pool, 16820 N. 99th Ave., for back and other health problems.

"But I was told I could not use it at the other centers," he said.

Mr. Herring confirmed there is a restriction on paddle boards at centers that have specific children's hours in the pools. Mr. Piazza said children's hours are 1-4 p.m. and he swims at different times, mostly 9 a.m.

"I don't see why I couldn't use the paddle board during hours that children are not allowed," he said.

Mr. Herring said officials are now reviewing the paddle board policy.

Resident Paul Peliquin expressed his concern about smoking on RCSC property.

"It seems the ashtrays at the centers are getting closer and closer to the front doors," he said. "And there is a large amount of cigarette butts thrown on the ground around the centers."

He wants to see smoking banned on RCSC property.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.

V F SC Recreation Centers (General)

VF SC Recreation Centers (General)

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Oct. 18, 2017

RCSC

Making policy changes

Residents unhappy with proposals

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun City resident Bonnie Hines wanted Recreation Centers of Sun City board members to change a policy to allow those in clubs accused of misconduct to be

able to see the entire complaint against them.

She made the request at the Sept. 28 board meeting and was told by Rich Hoffer, board president, the panel would be discussing changes to policies governing clubs that same day during a closed door work study meeting.



Rich Hoffer

He was not specific about what changes were being considered.

Their proposed changes were revealed during the monthly member/director exchange meeting Oct. 9. Ms. Hines' request went unanswered.

"They did not include my request to allow accusers

to see the full complaint against them," she said after the exchange meeting. "I am very dissatisfied with that."

Other residents were concerned about other changes proposed for Board Policy 12, governing clubs, and Board Policy 29, governing cardholder discipline hear-



Bill Pearson

ings.

However, they obtained one concession from the board. As first proposed, the policy changes included putting responsibility of directing similar clubs to merge on RCSC management rather than the board. After hearing residents' com-

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Policy

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ments Oct. 9, the board — in its closed door work study following the exchange meeting — reversed the change, placing the responsibility back on the board.

Resident Dale Lehrer believes the management team has no onus to cardholders.

“The board should make the final decision,” she said.

Resident Bill Pearson said he was stunned at the original intent of the proposed change.

“The board has a number of responsibilities and they have shuffled a lot of them to management,” he said. “The clubs rely on the board as a support group and enforcement.”

It was a small concession.

The board will consider its policy and corporate bylaw amendments during its regu-

lar meeting 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26 in Arizona Rooms 1 and 2 at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

Residents objected to changes that appear to limit accusers’ ability to present a defense. Resident Gail Verenhorst questioned the fairness of not allowing the accused to respond to witnesses and testimony during a hearing. Mr. Hoffer, RCSC board president, said that was not the intent of the change. Ms. Hines disagreed.

“In the proposal, ‘to witnesses and testimony’ is crossed out,” she said. “They can say what they want, but if it is in writing they can use it at any time.”

First appeals of disciplinary action will, if the proposed amendments are approved, be handled by an appeal commission consisting of three board members. Ms. Verenhorst was concerned

IF YOU GO:

What: Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors

When: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26

Where: Arizona Rooms 1 and 2 at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

that those same three people would be on the panel — the full RCSC board — that hears the second appeal.

“I wonder how it is fair that three who have already denied an appeal would be on the next panel,” she said.

She acknowledged that those three would make up only one-third of the second panel.

“But they could have influence on the other members,” she said.

Board member Dave Wieland took offense at her stance.

“These nine board members have integrity,” he said. “And you questioning our integrity I find appalling.”

Ms. Verenhorst further suggested any second appeals be handled by an outside arbitrator. In addition, she suggested the loser in the appeal would pay for the arbitrator’s services.

“That’s probably not going to happen,” Mr. Hoffer said.

Residents were also concerned the changes appeared

to limit the board, on a second appeal, to just watching the original hearing and no additional evidence could be presented. Mr. Hoffer assured residents additional testimony and materials could be presented during an appeal to the full board.

Resident Constance Sherman asked the board to consider a clarification to BP 29, regarding hearings. The policy appears to prohibit a club officer disciplined for inappropriate behavior from ever serving as a club officer in any group again.

“We have trouble getting people to serve as officers as it is,” she said. “I think it would be better for them to be ineligible for a period of time and then they can serve again.”

However, Ms. Sherman was pleased of one result if the amendments are approved — taking responsibility of appeal hearings from the Clubs Organizations Committee and putting it on the board.

“We (CoC members) don’t want to be a hammer,” Ms. Verenhorst, a CoC member, said. “Clubs are afraid of the CoC because they think we will judge them at some time.”

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.

Indep Aug 16, 2017

COMMUNITY

RCSC, SCHOA follow through on goals

Meeting expectations at mid-year

By Chris Caraveo
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

At the beginning of 2017, the agencies involved with Sun City governance created their list of goals to address for the year.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City, the Sun City Homeowners Association, the Sun City Fire and Medi-

cal District and the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City shared their expectations for the year back January.

For a mid-year update, RCSC and SCHOA officials responded to questions emailed by Independent Newsmedia on how they have addressed their yearly goals and what needs to be done before 2018 arrives.

RCSC

The rec centers completed the first half of 2017 well

within the overall operating and capital budget, according to Communications and Marketing Director Joelyn Higgins.

Every division has a net operating positive variance from the budget except the golf division, which is in a \$33,000 negative variance from budget year-to-date due to a decrease in rounds of golf during the



Joelyn Higgins

summer months, she explained.

Human resources also completed all requirements of Proposition 206, according to Ms. Higgins.

"RCSC remains on task with all of the goals and milestones discussed earlier this year," Ms. Higgins stated in an email.

The rec centers officials began video recording of

the board and member/director exchange meetings and posted them on YouTube, which have generated more than 2,800 views, according to Ms. Higgins. This mode of communication is proving to be a great outreach tool to meet the needs of those unable to attend meeting for various reasons, she stated.

In May, the ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee completed its work and pre-

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Community

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sented to the board suitable uses for the former New China Buffet building, 10415 W. Grand Ave. The board voted to purchase the property for \$750,000. Possible uses include additional club space and tenancy for the Vintage Vehicles Club of Sun City, which has worked with the board to find a dedicated space to meet.

The board also approved reinstating the standing Long Range Planning Committee and is currently in the process of accepting applications from interested RCSC members. Applications are available at the board/corporate office at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., and online at www.suncityaz.org/RCSC. The deadline is Sept. 29. Interviews with interested candidates will continue throughout the fall, according to Ms. Higgins.

RCSC leaders anticipate meeting of the committee to begin early 2018 after the board elects a new president who will be responsible for appointing chair and co-chair positions for 2018, Ms. Higgins explained.

SCHOA

SCHOA officials' goal continues to be increased membership so the organization can provide valuable services to the community, Executive Director Carole Studdard stated in an email.

In 2017, an increase in membership is due to new members as well as renewals, she explained. This is the first year SCHOA has offered free memberships to new residents, of which

872 have joined through the end of July. SCHOA continues to host its "Welcome New Residents" orientation for new neighbors to learn about their community. Membership with SCHOA is annual and voluntary.

"We look forward to new residents who received the gift of a free membership renewing at the end of the year," Ms. Studdard started.

Visit www.suncityhoa.org for membership details.

The organization took the position to address the current EPCOR wastewater consolidation rate case on behalf of residents. Recognizing the negative impact it would have on Sun City residents, in June the SCHOA Board of Directors approved to appeal the recent Arizona Corporation Commission decision to consolidate five districts, Ms. Studdard stated. Residents have donated to a rate case litigation fund, which has been created to cover legal expenses.

"Education has been provided encouraging Sun City to come together to fight against consolidation that would cause significant rate increases," Ms. Studdard stated.

The Community Intervention Program and the Residents Assistance and Maintenance Program continue to assist Sun City neighbors who have extenuating circumstances. Each program allows SCHOA to protect property values in Sun City by ensuring maintained property appearance.



Carole Studdard

For the past several years, SCHOA administered funds for the Sun City Community Fund that provides assistance through a "Personal Needs Fund." In 2017, SCHOA and the SCCF hosted the Sun City Resource Network Expo with the goal of bringing service organizations together, and SCHOA business partners who offer assistance to residents when needed. Each organization is committed to "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" and recognizes the need to continue to make information available. The goal is for this to be an annual event, Ms. Studdard stated.

SCHOA increased in-house workshops and will continue addressing topics of interest in Sun City, according to Ms. Studdard. This year the quarterly CC&R workshops moved offsite due to increased attendance and the need for more space. More than 100 residents attended the last meeting in July, according to Ms. Studdard.

"The goal of these events is to provide education offering the opportunity to understand Sun City covenants, conditions and restrictions that are designed to protect property values for Sun City," she continued. "SCHOA's mission is 'To provide for the wellbeing of Sun City through fair and universal compliance with the CC&Rs.'"

Chris Caraveo can be reached at 623-876-2531 or ccaraveo@newszap.com. Continue the discussion at www.yourwestvalley.com.

REC CENTERS

Keeping up with the 'Joneses'

Rec centers officials stay up-to-date on trends

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Del Webb's original Arizona retirement communities are more than 40 years old but still attracting new residents of all ages above the 55 minimum.

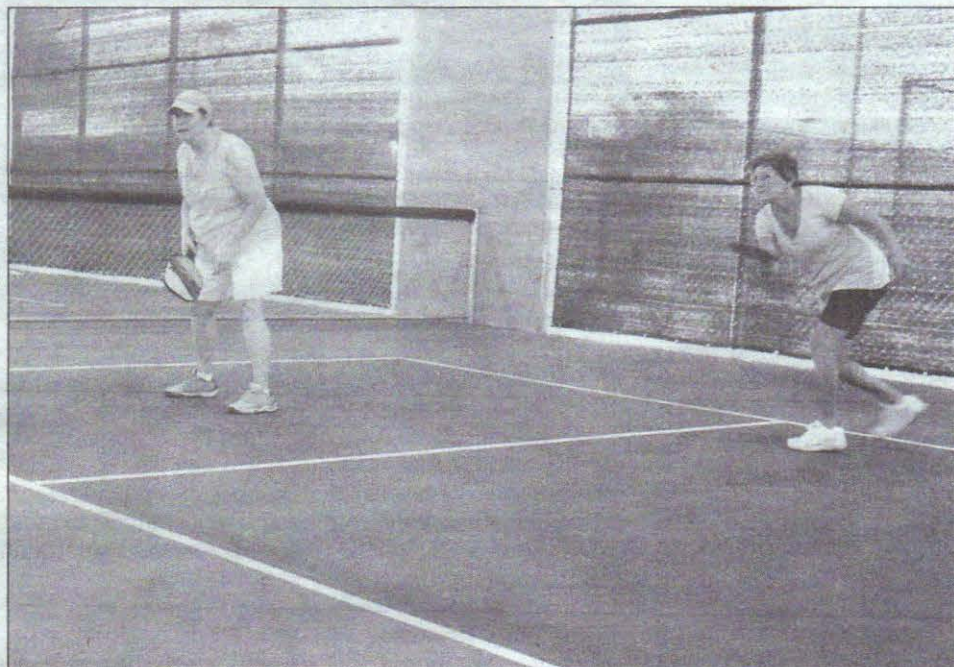
To keep homes occupied in their communities, rec centers officials in both communities must keep up with the changing times. They do this in a variety of ways.

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials conduct their own research using a variety of tools.

"Continuing research and awareness of current interests of gen Xers and millennials is ongoing," Joelyn Higgins, RCSC communications and marketing coordinator, stated in an email. "We remain committed to listening to all comments and suggestions."

RCSC officials also seek input from both prospective and new residents regarding the types of activities they are interested in pursuing, Ms. Higgins stated. They also keep in tune with other retirement communities across the nation as to what they are doing and adding to their list of activities and amenities, she added.

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials follow sim-



Bill Talarski and Nancy Harris prepare to return a service at the Marinette Recreation Center, 9860 W. Union Hills Drive, indoor pickleball facility that was part of the renovation at the center two years ago. [Independent Newsmedia file photo/Rusty Bradshaw]

ilar paths. The corporation also has memberships in the APRA and NPRA.

members of a couple different organizations such as APRA and NPRA.

"We keep up on the information they release about national and state trends," Katy O'Grady, RCSCW general services officer. "Likewise, we watch what our competition in the age-restriction arena is doing as well."

The retirement community field is always changing as new residents move into retirement. However, rec centers officials cannot focus only on new residents and their desires. The average age in both communities is more than 70, so the long-time residents contin-

ue to look for their particular interests.

"We strive to keep up with those changing desires, without forgetting our base," Ms. O'Grady stated. "We have a generation gap of some 50 years. That's a wide array of tastes to accommodate when it comes to dances, concerts, clubs, special events, etc. Based on the feedback we get, though, we're doing a pretty good job."

Balancing more than one generation's needs is nothing new to RCSC officials, according to Ms. Higgins.

"We have been doing it for quite some time now," she stated. "RCSC strives to have a number of activities that cater to all of our cardholders by offering a variety of music

choices and events, such as Casino Night and the Dive-

» See Rec on page 11

N F SC Recreation Centers (Generat)

Rec

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In Movie.”

Varying activity levels of members also dictates what they are able and/or willing to do, Ms. Higgins added. For example, there are many still dancing in their 80s while some that age are restricted to perhaps only card and board games or craft clubs, she added.

Rec centers officials in both communities are in a continual cycle of updating their amenities to ensure they are maintained at the “Del Webb standard” — if Del Webb were to build these same amenities today, what products and materials would he use? Countertops, paint colors and other updates have been undertaken in centers in both communities. Both organizations have a reserve funds that allow for facility upgrades and equipment replacement payment as they become worn out.

“This is funded for the most part through new

members moving in, and in smaller part by excess revenues at the end of the year and through interest revenue,” Ms. O’Grady stated.

One RCSCW project underway this year is updating the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center pool, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. The \$4 million project will provide entirely new aquatics center when complete and open in August. It also will include a great lawn and stage area outside the pool area, leading from the lower R.H. Johnson campus up staircases to the upper R.H. Johnson Center in a way that was never accessible before, according to Ms. O’Grady.

“This will bring the whole center together and create a real gathering place and drawing card for our community,” Ms. O’Grady stated.

Other projects have included rotating fitness equipment at those amenities, the establishment of Lizard Acres Trail Guide, introducing virtual reality activities for older residents with reduced mobility and

updated signage at the centers.

RCSC officials reinstated their Long Range Planning Committee during the board’s June 29 meeting, and the group will be responsible for researching potential future projects and those already planned, according to Ms. Higgins.

“The projects already slated on the long-range plan are likely to be addressed first,” Ms. Higgins stated.

The committee is scheduled to begin meeting again on a regular basis in the fall.

RCSC officials have been on an aggressive path to update numerous facilities over the past several years, including remodeling at recreation centers and golf courses. However, all capital improvement projects were put on hold in January due to pending litigation challenging, among other things, the validity of using Preservation and Improvement Funds for capital projects without a vote of the members.

Ms. Higgins offered no

comment on how the litigation could affect future planning. If the plaintiffs — 39 individual Sun City residents — prevail in the lawsuit, it could have a ripple effect for other retirement communities.

However, RCSCW officials are staying the course for the time being.

We are watching the (RCSC) situation; should anything change in that arena, we will obviously react to it,” Ms. O’Grady stated. “But as of now, it is business as usual for us.”

She added RCSCW has a healthy reserves and officials have conservatively budgeted for a number of years to ensure they are covering capital expenses, while putting away funds to cover future costs.

“Home sales have been strong, so we are in good shape,” Ms. O’Grady said.

Home sales in Sun City are also brisk.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 6230445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com. Continue the discussion at www.yourwestvalley.com.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

October 16, 2002

RCSC terminates negotiations for communications tower

Opponent pleased with outcome

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

The furor over a possible communication tower at Willowcreek Golf Course was quelled when the Recreation Centers of Sun City announced last week that negotiations with AT&T Wireless have ceased.

AT&T Wireless had approached the Rec Centers in the spring inquiring about the possibility of placing a tower in the maintenance yard of Willowcreek Golf Course. Construction of the tower would have netted the Rec Centers about \$1,000 monthly.

In order to even consider the possibility of erecting a monopole, the RCSC Board had to change Board Policy No. 16, which had imposed a ban on the construction of

communications tower on RCSC property.

That stipulation was passed on Aug. 28, 1997, after residents were angered by the construction of a monopole at Marinette Recreation Center.

The policy was amended in June, much to the consternation Sun Citian Anne Randall Stewart. That action led Mrs. Stewart to launch a drive to recall all nine RCSC Board members because she feels they were derelict in their duty when they voted to lift the ban.

Mrs. Stewart was pleased by the announcement

"It is an answer to a prayer," she says.

However, just because negotiations have ceased for this cell tower, she plans to remain vigilant.

"The ban is still listed so

they can still entertain other offers," she says. "We are not satisfied with that. We don't want any of these eyesores (communications towers) placed next to any rec centers property ever again. So we want the ban reinstated."

Earl Feierabend, director of Centers Operations for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., said RCSC and AT&T Wireless mutually agreed to end further discussions.

"We would not allow AT&T to erect the tower if they were not agreeable to our terms," Mr. Feierabend says.

Jerry Swintek, RCSC Board president, says he was not at liberty to discuss the terms.

"They had a standard contract," Mr. Swintek says.

See Tower — Page 3

Towers

Continued From Page 1

"Our Legal Affairs Committee set forth other conditions. AT&T decided it could not live with some of the conditions."

Mr. Swintek says one of the conditions set forth by the RCSC Board involved a higher monthly fee.

"Their offer was \$1,000 month," Mr. Swintek said. "They felt that was industry standard and that is what they needed to go with."

Mr. Feierabend stresses

that the Rec Centers never agreed to a contract,

"As the RCSC Board said at the outset of this process, our goal was to explore, via open public discussion and committee review, the options open to RCSC," he says. "The Legal and Engineering committees and the RCSC Board developed the areas of importance to our members and these requirements were transmitted to AT&T on Sept. 13. On Oct. 2, AT&T said they would be unable to meet the

terms and conditions submitted to them."

It is important to note that this issue, and other issues that will arise, need to be explored so that factual information can be acquired before decisions are reached," Mr. Feierabend continues. "Despite certain efforts, including a recall campaign, that have attempted to derail the open discussion process before it got started, the RCSC Board is committed to fulfilling its responsibility to protect members' interests before reaching decisions"

RCSC rejects idea for lobbyist

Lobbyist may take legal action

By **Jeremy Pearlman**
Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Governing Board may end up paying a lobbyist to work on behalf of Arizona's senior citizens, whether its members want to or not.

During an Oct. 15 executive session, the RCSC Board voted to not join the Arizona Senior Citizens Forum — an organization created to present a unified voice to state and local governmental bodies on senior-related issues.

While this was the first time the board actually voted

on the issue, its president, Jerry Swintek, had already signed an engagement letter to hire Gretchen Jacobs as the forum's lobbyist and signed the forum's non-profit incorporation documents.

Representing the forum's other member organizations, the presidents of the Sun City Home Owners Association, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West and the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association also signed the engagement letter.

The engagement letter

See **Lobby** — Page 5

Lobby

Continued From Page 1

contracted Ms. Jacobs' lobbying services in exchange for \$45,000 annually. The fee was to be split four ways, with the RCSC and RCSCW each paying 40 percent, while HOA and PORA were to contribute 10 percent each.

Ms. Jacobs has been the forum's active lobbyist since Aug. 1.

Despite efforts by forum members to convince the RCSC board to join post-facto, a majority of directors voted against joining.

"The main reason (the RCSC board did not join the forum) is that we didn't read the contract. It was never presented to us," said Dorothy Hirtzel, RCSC vice president. "Right now, we

don't like the direction (the forum) is going.

"If the board feels (the forum) is going to fit our needs with a lobbyist, then we'll reconsider it," Mrs. Hirtzel added. "But at this time we won't consider it."

But since Mr. Swintek signed the engagement letter, the RCSC Board is obligated to fulfill the letter's terms, according to Ms. Jacobs.

"The Sun City Rec Centers still has a contract with me," Ms. Jacobs said. "I have asked $\frac{1}{2}$ their attorney what their plan is, given the legal ramifications of their choosing not to honor their legal agreement.

"This is a very clear-cut breach of contract case and I will pursue action to get attorney fees," Ms. Jacobs continued. "But that is the worst-case scenario."

According to Ms. Jacobs, other options available to the RCSC are to buy her out for less than the full amount or to join the forum.

"I think they are on really shaky legal ground," Ms. Jacobs said. "I don't think this is the last of the forum for them."

Mr. Swintek would not comment on the matter when asked for a response.

"There will be an announcement forthcoming," Mr. Swintek said.

Despite losing one of its supposed major financial backers, the forum is anticipated to continue its operations, according to Bob Jones, forum president.

"Everything is all ahead full," Mr. Jones said. "All the people that are still here think (the forum) is a good concept and worth pursuing.

"We have plans to expand, bring in other members and to do this with our current members," he added.

Since its inception, the forum has also added the Condominium Owners Associations of both Sun City and Sun City West.

Although the forum is expected to continue without RCSC inclusion, members will try to renegotiate Ms. Jacobs' deal to better reflect the organization's current financial reality.

"We will meet with the lobbyist and renegotiate her contract," Mr. Jones said. "We have a good indication from her that she is willing to do this."

The meeting is scheduled Oct. 31.

Changing of the guard

RCSC: Briscoe declines re-election

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

True to his word, Bob Briscoe stepped down from his presidential post on the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors.

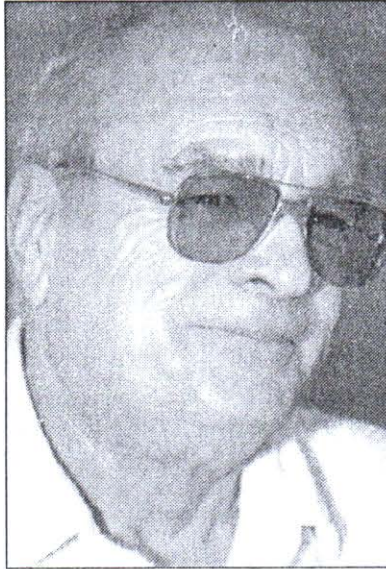
Board member Jerry Swintek will assume the top duties in 2001.

For the past two years, Briscoe has led RCSC through one of its most ambitious agendas with marked success. Tuesday morning, he declined a nomination to extend his presidency for another year, instead opting for the vice presidency post.

"Like I said I was going to do, I declined a nomination for president," he said. "I don't think anyone should be president for more than two years because it is time for new ideas from new leadership."

Briscoe hinted at his decision to step down in mid-December during the local elections, and said he would stay on as a board member to help the Centers reach this year's goals.

Briscoe chose to take the vice president spot Tuesday morning after Swintek accepted the nomination for president and asked



Bob Briscoe

Briscoe to be second in command.

"Jerry is an excellent board member and ready to run full-bore into the issues we have ahead of us," Briscoe said. "It was a logical choice to pick him, and he'll do a very good job as president."

Following RCSC's Tuesday election, Swintek said he was looking forward to leading the board into the new year, and said he would strive to follow Briscoe's lead in getting things done in the community.

"We are looking forward to progress," he said. "We are going

into the new millennium and are not getting stuck in the past. We have a lot to do and think we'll have as good a year as we did last year."

Swintek said the board accomplished a full agenda last year, but its work is far from complete. Facing multiple upgrades to existing recreation center buildings, Swintek said the board will be out for a full fix rather than a temporary solution.

"From my perspective, the board in 2000 accomplished more in one year than any of the other boards put together," he said. "We are looking to extend that record into this year. The president will be leading a board that has the fortitude to stand behind their leader."

Also elected to the board's administration Tuesday morning was Harold Boudrie for his third term as board treasurer and Beverly Davis as board secretary.

With new officials leading the board, top agenda items for the year include upgrades to Lakeview and Sundial recreation centers, as well as final transitioning to the new managers in the community.

"Projects keep going and good things will happen," Swintek said. "Everything is looking good for the year ahead of us."

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 876-2526.

Jerry Swintek elected RCSC board president

Other committee assignments made

By **JULI NESSETT**
Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors elected its new slate of officers Jan. 2 for the year 2001.

Although Bob Briscoe, president of the board for the past two years, was asked to be president again, he declined.

"I appreciate your confidence. I really do," he said to the board. "But I really don't think anyone should sit in this chair for more than two years."

Harold Boudrie, who served as treasurer on the board in 1999 and 2000, nominated Jerry Swintek. Director Beverly Davis seconded

the motion. Mr. Swintek was then voted in unanimously as the board president for 2001.

Vice presidential nomination came next, with Mr. Swintek nominating Bob Briscoe. He accepted the nomination and laughed, saying, "I can do that as long as Jerry does all of the work."

Directors Bev Davis and Dorothy Hirtzel were both nominated for the position of secretary. Ms. Davis was narrowly elected, 5-4.

Art Little and Ms. Davis nominated Harold Boudrie to take on the position of treasurer for the third year in a row. Again the board voted unanimously to give Mr. Boudrie

See ■ PRESIDENT, Page 9

the position.

"I'm glad you all have confidence in me and I'll try to do the same job I've done in the past," said Mr. Boudrie.

Votes were counted by Helen Thiel and former board member Chuck Chadbourn.

Following the election, Mr. Briscoe handed over the meeting to Mr. Swintek.

"I'm excited and I think everybody here is excited for what is going to come in the next year," said Mr. Swintek.

Mr. Swintek then asked the directors to list the committees on which they wished to serve or chair. Assignments were announced Jan. 5.

Harold Boudrie was selected as chair of the Bid Committee, with Ted Haupt and Dorothy Hirtzel as members.

The Bowling Committee will be chaired by Ms. Davis and Art Little will sit as a committee member.

Ms. Hirtzel will chair the Club Organization Committee, with Mr. Little and Marge Murphy as members.

The Elections Committee will be chaired by Tom Whiston and Mr. Briscoe and Ms. Hirtzel will sit on the committee as members.

The chair of the Engineering Committee will be Mr. Haupt. Mr. Little will sit on the committee as a member.

Mr. Boudrie and Ms. Murphy will co-chair the Entertainment Committee.

The Finance and Budget Committee will be chaired by Mr. Boudrie. Mr. Whiston and Ms. Davis will be members.

Golf will be chaired by Ms. Davis and Mr. Whiston will serve as a member of the committee.

Mr. Briscoe will head the Human Resources Committee, with Ms. Hirtzel and Mr. Whiston as members.

The Insurance Committee will be

chaired by Mr. Boudrie. Mr. Whiston and Ms. Hirtzel will serve as members.

Investments will be headed by Mr. Whiston and Mr. Boudrie as co-chairs and Operations Center Manager Earl Feierabend and Bill Collier, RCSC finance manager, serving as members.

Mr. Briscoe will chair the Legal Committee and Mr. Whiston will serve as a member.

The Long Range Planning Committee will be led by Ms. Murphy, with Ms. Davis and Mr. Briscoe serving as members.

Mr. Little will chair the Membership Communications Committee and Ms. Murphy will sit on as a member.

Properties/Centers/Golf will be headed up by Mr. Haupt and Ms. Hirtzel will serve as a member.

Liaisons to other organizations were also announced on Jan. 5.

Steve Ravenkamp, RCSC golf operations manager, will serve as the liaison to Arizona Turf Advisory.

Mr. Boudrie will serve as the liaison to Emergency Evacuation and Mr. Little will serve as Northwest Valley Water representative.

Ms. Hirtzel will be the Home Owners Association liaison and Ms. Davis will work with the Northwest Valley Community Council.

Mr. Swintek will serve as the liaison to the RCSC President's Council and Ms. Davis will do the same for the Foundation President's Council.

Ms. Murphy will work with the Sun City Ambassadors and Mr. Haupt will serve as liaison to the Sun City Library.

Finally, Mr. Boudrie will serve as

JANUARY 12-18, 2000 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT -

Bob Briscoe re-elected RCSC board president

By LORA BERRY
Independent Newspapers

Bob Briscoe has been re-elected to a second term as president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. board of directors.

Board members voted Jan. 3 to retain Mr. Briscoe as president as well as Vice President John Powell and Treasurer Harold Boudrie. The newest officer is Marge Murphy, who assumes the post of secretary, succeeding Dick Elton, whose board term expired.

Officers were elected by secret ballot, and Mr. Briscoe suggested they not divulge how many were for or against. That caused some hard feelings last year, according to Dorothy Hirtzel, former board member.

After the voting, Mr. Boudrie noted there was some criticism and arguing last year between himself and Mr. Powell. "We talked and we plan to cooperate 100 percent and work together," Mr. Boudrie said.

Mr. Briscoe said, "We don't all have to agree, but once a decision is made, we all need to work together."

Mrs. Murphy said she was happy with her new appointment and with the other appointments.

Following the board's special meeting, the Sun City Foundation Board met to elect its officers.

The Foundation, which is under the jurisdiction of the Recreation

Centers Board, must have a majority of Rec board members or former Rec board members. The purpose of the Foundation is to carry out charitable and educational functions for the well being and common good of Rec Centers members.

Currently there are about 13 directors on the Foundation board.

Ed McCrea will step down as president from 1999, as Bob Briscoe was elected to the position for 2000. Vice president will be Bev Davis, secretary will be Marge Murphy, and Harold Boudrie will act as treasurer for the Foundation. However, Mr. Briscoe expressed doubt that he would be able to attend all of the Foundation board meetings and may consider resigning as Foundation board president.

Other Foundation board members include: Phyllis Roach, Nancy and Bob Root, Gerry Unger and Ed McCrea.

This is the first year that the Foundation has overseen any significant funds. They usually have about \$5,000 with which to work. The Foundation received a \$50,000 bequest from the estate of a Sun Citian. Additional funds came from raffle tickets sold for the 40th anniversary, and funds from the anniversary kickoff dinner/dance.

In addition, there have been donations intended for the purchase of a statue. The Foundation's assets are about \$81,000.

 Daily News-Sun • Thursday, Jan. 20, 2000

SC Rec Centers plan directors speaking bureau

DRAGNET: Directors launch campaign to let residents know 'just the facts'

KATE FLEITAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Recreation Centers of Sun City Director Jerry Swintek wants residents to know "just the facts" about rec center business.

Swintek asked board members at a work session this month to establish a directors speaking bureau. Directors who participate in the bureau would be available to speak with clubs about rec center business and decrease misinformation about board business, Swintek said.

The board informally approved the bureau idea and sent it to be reviewed by members of the membership communication committee.

Swintek said he came up with the "speakers bureau" idea while campaigning last year. A neighbor had invited him to speak

with a club about why he wanted to be a director and about his work on the board's budget and finance committee.

"The questions came by leaps and bounds," Swintek recalled. "I had answers for almost everything except fixing the organ. But, there was all kinds of misinformation out there. They were about 180 degrees off from what the board is planning to do."

Residents can catch up on board business by attending the board's two monthly work sessions or the board's regular meeting on the last Thursday of each month. But attendance at the regular meetings rarely surpasses 50 people, Swintek said.

"We only have between 30 to 40 people at the monthly board meetings," he said. "But, if each of us went to one club per month and gave an update on what we were doing, we could talk to 30 or 40 people, and they would talk to others about information they got straight from the horse's mouth. We could really quell some of the bad information floating around out there."

Daily News-Sun • Friday, Jan. 28, 2000

Rec board pledges improved communication

INFORMED RESIDENTS:
Town Hall meetings, Web site planned to pass along information

DUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

With several major new housing projects in the works that could affect Sun City West residents, members of the Recreation Centers governing board pledged Thursday to keep residents informed of developments as they occur.

The biggest project is the planned purchase by Del Webb Corp. of the 638-acre podine citrus grove and perhaps another 100 acres for a formal addition to Sun City West.

Other housing projects may go on the vacant 15-acre Fitzpatrick property near Prince of Peace Catholic Church, in an addition to Grandview Terrace on Granite Valley Drive, and near the Sundome, in a project by The Ryerson Co.

In each case, residents likely would have to become centers' members and developers required to pay special fees.

Webb's initial plans call for it to integrate new amenities in the area with existing Recreation Centers facilities.

"There is a lot of resident concern about those plans," board president Richard Catlin said at Thursday's governing board meeting.

"We still have not been given anything specific to talk about," Catlin said.

"The board will meet in mid-February with Webb officials and at that time, we

can discuss (with the community) what we know."

Catlin also said the board planned to have one or more Town Hall meetings with residents this year, to keep them fully informed and to gather resident comment on the community.

Public Relations Committee Chairwoman Dee Hjermstad said later that the first Town Hall likely would occur in the next two months.

It won't be as formal as a board meeting, she said, and would allow considerably greater public participation.

The board also once again is working to establish an electronic presence through a Web site on the Internet that would be used to keep residents more informed.

Questions of what it should carry, how it would be updated, and who would be

responsible for the content, remain to be answered, she said.

A new computer subcommittee of the PR group, to be headed by Bob Beaupre, will work on those matters, Hjermstad said.

She also said the centers plans to boost the size of its monthly newsletter, to perhaps six or eight pages.

Communication with residents, or the lack of it, has been a regular topic at board meetings the last four years, and a centers' website has been discussed for at least three.

In other board business, Allen Young said the computer club, which now has about 4,300 members, needs more space, and that it would be preparing a proposal for the general manager on where that space should be and how much more is needed.

Daily News-Sun • Monday, Feb. 21, 2000

Tenant fights for rec card rights



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mildred Fraser likes to play bridge in the Lakeview Social Hall. Fraser rents in Sun City and wasn't allowed to use the recreation facilities until she or her landlord paid the rec fees. She paid and reduced the cost from her rent.

CREATIVE: SC woman finds solution to landlord's late fees

KATE FLEITAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mildred Fraser said she was devastated when she learned she would not be allowed to use Sun City's recreation facilities.

"I was never so close to crying in my life," she recalled. "Without a rec card, you might as well not be here."

The rec centers would not issue a rec card to Fraser because the people who owned her condominium had not paid their membership dues. As a solution, Fraser said she paid the \$230 membership assessment, \$115 for each name on the lease, and subtracted the amount from her monthly rent.

But, she doesn't think that she, or any other Sun City renter, should have to go through that type of ordeal. She wants the Recreation Centers of Sun City

board of directors to create a rule that would allow a renter to gain access to the rec centers even if the owner is not current on membership dues.

"Why should I be punished as a tenant for something the landlord didn't do?" she asked. "I shouldn't have had to make that decision."

The board of directors discussed the problem at a recent study session, but it doesn't plan to take any action, said Dick Ohnstad, chairman of the board's legal affairs committee.

"The renter has alternatives," he said. "He can go to the renter, the real estate agent, or pay the fee and deduct it from the rent."

Ohnstad said problems similar to Fraser's are rare.

"We have not had to file that many liens against property owners," he said.

He does not foresee the board creating a policy to help renters.

"It's already a bylaw and something that the owner of the property has to comply with," he said.

MARCH 1-7, 2000 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT -

Rec Centers directors showered with complaints

Renovations conform, president says

By **JULIE RIDDLE**
Independent Newspapers

After at least two people claimed that renovations to the shower room at Bell Recreation Center were in violation of the Fair Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Bob Briscoe, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, said the situation has been remedied.

"We were informed by the ADA that they (the shower facilities) are fine, and are up to code," Mr. Briscoe said. "We have done everything we have to do."

The complainants' comments, which were published in the *Independent's* "Speak Out" column Feb. 16-22, claimed the center's showers did not cater to the disabled and was breaking the law due to a lack of benches. However, all of the Sun City Recreation Centers and facilities are meeting and exceeding

specified standards, according to Mr. Briscoe.

"The ADA has different requirements for public and private businesses — we are a private club," he said. "We are fulfilling our requirements, not only our legal obligation, but going beyond."

Mr. Briscoe, who says he read the published comments, said the newly-remodeled \$100,000 facilities, located outside the club's pool, did originally present a problem.

"The old showers were up to the wall, and had seats bolted to it," he said. "We did not feel that we could bolt the new seats in without breaking the new tile." After alternative seating was arranged, Mr. Briscoe said complaints were voiced.

"We bought seats that some people said slid around and were not sturdy," Mr. Briscoe explained. "They were the same seats that people would use at home."

Now, Mr. Briscoe said, shower

facilities include stools for those who cannot stand, although he said the Recreation Centers have always made it their goal to meet standards.

"We are doing to our best to do it (meet standards)," Mr. Briscoe stressed. "We go out of our way to get places up to code with the ADA."

Pleasing everyone, Mr. Briscoe said, is not possible, citing a person who complained about not having a place to hang a shampoo bottle.

"We are remodeling the showers at most of the Recreation Centers," he said. "There comes a time when you cannot answer to everything before the question is asked. We are compliant and are doing our best. The main thing is that we are doing everything we can, plus extra to make it accessible. There comes a time when you can not please everyone."

Sun City Recreation Centers General Manager Jim Warfield refused comment on the situation.

Sun City examines catering operations

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY: Board will have to approve facility remodel for Sunburst to continue

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

As Sunburst Catering Service waits for approval on its new kitchen, many Sun Citians question whether the catering business even should be in operation.

Sunburst Catering Service handles the food in the recreation centers in Sun City — from the coffee shops to the snack shops — and caters small parties and club events with an outdoor grill.

With hopes of providing in-house catering service to clubs that now normally use outside services, the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors approved spending \$100,000 last year to move the rec center's catering service out of its current location at a food-storage facility on Union Hills Drive.

"We would like to have an in-house catering service with the best possible food at the best

price," said Bob Briscoe, RCSC president.

Now the board is planning to remodel the current food-storage facility at Union Hills Drive, converting it into a kitchen from which the catering service can work.

Architect's plans are being reviewed and final approval from the county and the board won't be complete for at least a month or two, Briscoe said.

At that time — when the remodeling costs will be discussed — the board will decide the future of the catering service.

"We hope we can get the catering service going, but the question is, can we staff it and run it properly?" said Briscoe, who said he is constantly evaluating the situation with his board.

The catering service is budgeted at \$153,611 for expenses for the year, said Harold Boudrie, RCSC treasurer. But he doesn't think the catering service will make a profit this year.

Along with the concerns Briscoe has, some Sun Citians also complain about the service and the problems they have encountered with Sunburst.

Bob Alexander, president of the Sundial Silverstones Club, helped oversee the Sundial Fun Fair April 15 with his club.

Sunburst had agreed to cater the fair on March 7, but then Gordon Sanders, Sunburst manager, called and canceled a week before, citing a lack of manpower.

Sunburst was catering a big dance-supper later that night, Briscoe said.

Sanders and Jim Warfield, RCSC operations manager, declined to comment.

Warfield assigned Doug Caravaggio, a 40th-anniversary steering-committee board member, to assist the club in helping find a replacement catering service, Alexander said. Four days before the event, Macaroni Grill was hired.

"It was an insult to me personally, because we were told that we didn't give them enough notice," Alexander said.

And Loretta Wilhelm, who helped with the Fun Fair, said she has had numerous problems at the coffee shops with food being cold, food on the menu that isn't available and a change of hours at some of the shops.

"The rec centers don't need a catering service if they can't do their job," said Wilhelm, also upset about the catering service running out of food at 11:30 a.m. during last year's Sundial Fun Fair. "If they can't handle their food, then they shouldn't be in



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Harold Loekle leaves the coffee shop adjacent to the Bell Recreation Center bowling alley where his wife Pearl and he eat every Monday. Below, Melvin Krause finishes a hamburger at the shop, catered by Sunburst Catering Service.

business."

However, not all Sun Citians have problems with the food service, Briscoe said, and while some have had bad experiences, others have had great ones.

"The prices are reasonable, and the food is good," said Glen Fosha of Sun City, who eats breakfast with his wife at the Bell Rec Center coffee shop once or twice a week. "The service is pretty good, too."

But the future of the catering service remains uncertain.

"It's got to be done first class, or we might as well not do it at all," Briscoe said.



Lengthy court lead time slows Warfield lawsuit

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY INC.: Former general manager filed claim in September after being fired

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A discrimination lawsuit against the Recreation Centers of Sun City won't make it

to a courtroom for at least a year.

Jim Warfield, RCSC's former manager, filed the lawsuit Sept. 28, after being fired Sept. 13. RCSC President Jerry Swintek said the paperwork in the case isn't due to the judge until June 2002.

"This is going to take some time," he said. "From my understanding, the court date could be as much as two years away."

Warfield's lawsuit against the Recreation Centers of

Sun City Inc. includes three counts: racial discrimination, retaliatory wrongful termination and wrongful termination in violation of the Arizona Employment Protection Act.

RCSC officials would not divulge any information about the case, other than the dates of Warfield's service. Warfield began working at the centers in January 1984 as a warehouse manager and buyer making \$6.25 an hour. When he was fired

See Suit seeks, A5

From A1

almost 17 years later, his salary as general manager was \$79,500.

Warfield's lawyer, Elizabeth Faulkner, said Monday the case isn't about money, even though the lawsuit is seeking an undisclosed sum.

"We have not come up with a number yet," Faulkner said. "But we are seeking lost wages and benefits. He has suffered a lot of emotional and mental anguish."

Faulkner said the case is about discrimination and prejudice.

"We believe the complaint speaks for itself," Faulkner said. "There has certainly been substantial evidence of ongoing racial discrimination culminating in his termination."

When Warfield was first promoted from warehouse manager to purchasing manager, his pay rose to \$23,500 annually, the same as the former purchasing manager.

Then, in 1990, he was promoted to general manager while continuing his duties as both purchasing manager and warehouse manager,

with his pay rising to \$50,000 a year, according to the six-page lawsuit. The former general manager was paid \$65,000 a year.

Warfield was then offered the permanent position as general manager, while still carrying out duties as purchasing manager, the lawsuit states. His salary of \$60,000 a year was less than the previous general manager's, who was white, the suit contends.

Warfield's management position also was made into two positions during his tenure, as the RCSC board voted to create a golf manager's position. The addition of a second manager limited Warfield's duties to nongolf recreation-center facilities. At the time, the RCSC board attributed the change to cost cutting.

RCSC board members reported Warfield made poor decisions in golf operations, causing a mismanagement in funds.

Warfield was put on probation July 13 for not working at an acceptable level, even though his performance reviews show him working at a satisfactory level, according

to the lawsuit.

At that point, Warfield filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. And because of this filing, he "was wrongfully terminated in retaliation for his complaints of discrimination," the lawsuit states.

Citing racial slurs and unfair business practices, the lawsuit claims Warfield was dismissed from his job solely because of his race.

Although all filings must be presented to the court by the middle of next year, Faulkner said there is still a lot of research and investigation being conducted in the meantime.

"Litigation is active and ongoing," she said. "And we still have all the motions of discovery and disclosure yet to be filed."

Phone calls to RCSC attorney, Mark Gilling of the Sanders and Parks law firm were not returned over the past several days.

Warfield's case has not been discussed openly at RCSC board meetings or study sessions, other than giving brief updates every couple months.

Warfield was replaced by Earl Feirabend last October. The RCSC board has publicly praised Feirabend on multiple occasions.

Rec Board nixes catering

BOOKED: 9 Sun City events in 2000 will have catered food, rest won't

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors unanimously decided Thursday to discontinue catering for the remainder of the year, with the exception of nine events already booked.

The Food Committee will meet with food-service management in November to discuss implementing catering in 2001.

At its meeting in the Sundial Recreation Center, the board also unanimously approved:

- Increasing the budget by \$26,430 for three projects — a pool heater at Oakmont Recreation Center, a showroom addition for the Fairway Recreation Center Lapidary and Silvercraft Club and trimming of 524 palm

trees on golf courses.

The pool heater was originally budgeted at less than what it will cost to fix it because the person who was supposed to fix it for the budgeted price is no longer with the recreation center, said Director Ted Haupt.

The showroom addition is necessary because the Lapidary Club had to move out of its original room to accommodate the growing Computer Club of Sun City.

The trees need to be trimmed on the golf courses every year because of the mess they make, Haupt said. The trees were originally budgeted for trimming every other year.

- Word changes in the corporate membership bylaws. The changes were for clarification purposes and do not change the meaning of the bylaws.

Also on Thursday, Director Bev Davis announced the Bell Metal Club will sponsor the Volunteer Statue Committee. Donations to the Sun City Foundation for the bronze statue to recognize Sun City volunteers are again

tax-deductible, Davis said, and those received during the interim period are now also deemed deductible.

The committee did not have a sponsor after it was dropped by the Marinette Clay Corner earlier this year. Donations were not tax-deductible. Until the Bell Metal Club volunteered, the committee was in limbo.

About \$100,000 is needed for the statue, and Connie Turner, one of the artists who designed the statue, said any additional money will go to purchase automatic external defibrillators for the recreation centers.

There will be a joint board of directors regular and membership quarterly meeting at 9 a.m. Sept. 28 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 103rd Ave. The board also hosts two study sessions open to the public at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 11 and 18.

Any Sun City resident is invited to attend the study sessions. For information, call Helen Thiel at the board office at 876-3060, extension 1020.

Daily News-Sun • Friday, Sept. 15, 2000

Board fires operations manager

DIRECTORS MUM:
No reason given for
Jim Warfield's
ouster at RCSC

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Operations Manager Jim Warfield was fired Thursday by the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors.

The dismissal came at a special board meeting, and followed action by directors in July, placing Warfield on 60 days probation.

In announcing the firing, the board said it decided that "in the best interest of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc.," Warfield should "be relieved of his duties as Centers Operations Manager and his employment terminated effective immediately."

The board did not say if all nine members agreed on the action.

Beyond saying that they'd begun the search for a new manager, board members had no comment on the firing, or the reasons behind it.

Warfield did not return calls placed Thursday to his Surprise home.

Gerry Unger, former recreation center board member, said "this situation has been building for a while," but would not comment further.

Dick Elton, also a former board member, who said he has known Warfield for quite a few years, said he thought Warfield was doing a good job, but felt that any top manager position should be changed just to get new ideas.

"I respected his knowledge and information, but he didn't have the social skills to work with the people and the public," Elton said. "I had an understanding he was not too popular with the people under him."

Paul Hansen, lead person for Sundial Recreation Center, said he was shocked when he found out Thursday of Warfield's



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

File photo shows Jim Warfield talking to a group of residents at a Recreation Centers of Sun City board meeting.

termination.

"I didn't have a lot to do with him. Jim was purely administrative. But, I always found him to be fair," said Hansen, who worked for Warfield for five years.

"The guy was a good boss. I got along with him."

Warfield was a long-time employee of the recreation centers, working at the recreation center in another capacity until he was promoted to general manager.

Earlier this year, the board relieved Warfield of his overall general manager duties and hired Steve Ravenkamp as golf-operations manager to oversee care of Sun City's golf courses.

That position was created to ease Warfield's responsibilities, the board said.

With budgets of \$6.5 million in both the recreation centers and golf, Ravenkamp is responsible for taking care of the golf courses, while Warfield was responsible for overseeing the operation of the recreation centers.

Hayley Ringle can be reached by e-mail at hringle@aztrib.com or by calling 876-2519.

Daily News-Sun • Friday, Sept. 22, 2000

Food service changes loom in Sun City

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Food services in the recreation centers of Sun City are facing changes next year as the centers' budget and finance committee examines ways to reduce costs.

Bill Collier, finance manager, is proposing a 5 percent increase in food items by Nov. 1 to help offset losses in the past year, and menu revisions.

"We want to make the food service more attractive to residents to try to come up with less loss and a better selection for the people," Harold Boudrie, chairman of the committee and treasurer of the board, said at Thursday's committee meeting.

The Budget and Finance Committee is in the talking stage at this point, and nothing will be decided until the board considers the final budget in October, Boudrie said.

The food service, which encompasses all seven Sun City snack and coffee shops, has incurred a \$78,000 loss through August, Boudrie said.

For information, call the board at

You be the chef

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board is asking residents for suggestions to improve food services in the community's seven coffee and snack shops located at golf courses and bowling lanes. Free meals will be awarded to the best suggestions. Suggestions, not to exceed one page, must be in writing. Send them to the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors, Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351, or drop off at the board office. Deadline is Oct. 31.

876-3000.

Hayley Ringle can be reached by e-mail at hringle@aztrib.com or by calling 876-2519.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 3, 2000

Board felt Warfield had deficiencies

Failure to correct problems led to firing

By MIKE RUSSO
Independent Newspapers

Failure to correct deficiencies in his work performance led to the Sept. 13 dismissal of Jim Warfield as the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. centers operations manager.

Mr. Warfield's termination came following a 60-day probationary period. Mr. Warfield received an unsatisfactory appraisal during the July 13 standard six-month evaluation leading to the probation, explained board President Bob Briscoe.

The action was long overdue, according to a former board president.

"His performance was absolutely not satisfactory," Art Williams said of Mr. Warfield's job performance during his year as board president, 1994.

"He should have been fired eight years ago. I congratulate the board on its action," Mr. Williams said.

Mr. Williams said the board did

not take action against Mr. Warfield during his presidency because of all the turmoil associated with the recall occurring during that time. Also, the board did not have the necessary documentation to support the dismissal.

"We failed to build evidence to support terminating Mr. Warfield," Mr. Williams said.

Several years later, the board apparently has the necessary documentation.

"His performance did not meet the expectation of the nine board members," said Mr. Briscoe of the probationary action.

"After 60 days, Mr. Warfield was not responsive to the concerns of the board and was terminated," Mr. Briscoe explained.

The Recreation Centers has begun advertising for a replacement. "I'm hoping we can get a good, qualified candidate in six to eight weeks," Mr. Briscoe said.

Mr. Warfield was appointed gen-

eral manager of the recreation centers in 1990 and served in that capacity until May when the board of directors hired a golf manager, Steve Ravenkamp, and reduced some of Mr. Warfield's duties, naming him centers operations manager.

Mr. Briscoe was very complimentary of the changes instituted by Mr. Ravenkamp.

"Steve has done a great job," Mr. Briscoe said. "He has totally reorganized the golf operation.

"We have done a lot of reorganizing of the Recreation Centers," Mr. Briscoe continued. "I feel this will be a positive thing for the Recreation Centers. What we are doing is best for the Recreation Centers."

Mr. Williams felt Mr. Warfield was deficient in the manner in which he related to employees.

"He had no personnel background," Mr. Williams said. "He had no personal touch with employees and he did not know how to work with them."

Mr. Williams was also critical of Mr. Warfield's money management skills.

"He would just OK anything (for payment)," Mr. Williams said. "He had no concept of management."

While Mr. Warfield had his detractors, he also had supporters.

Jim Hawks, board member from 1988 to 1991 and president in 1991, said he felt Mr. Warfield's performance was satisfactory during his board tenure.

"He was selected from over 100

“

I feel this will be a positive thing for the Recreation Centers.

Bob Briscoe
Recreation Centers
Board President

applicants," Mr. Hawks said. "He was the Recreation Centers purchasing agent at the time. He was hired to be general manager and still perform purchasing agent duties" with the understanding that he could return to his former position if he was not satisfied with the general manager's job.

"You have to compare what we wanted to have done and how it was being handled before he got there," Mr. Hawks said. "I think it was a positive step to bring Jim on.

"He straightened out a lot of things that were floundering," Mr. Hawks added. "He was an improvement."

Mr. Warfield will receive his two weeks of vacation pay and four weeks of service pay, Mr. Briscoe noted. Attempts to reach Mr. Warfield for comment were unsuccessful.

 Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2000

Warfield sues Recreation Centers

SUN CITY: Former general manager alleges race discrimination

PATRICK O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The former general manager for the Recreation Centers of Sun City filed a federal lawsuit against the corporation alleging he was discriminated against because of his race.

Jim Warfield, who had spent 16 years with the recreation centers before being fired last month by the group's board, filed the action Thursday in the U.S.

District Court in Phoenix.

Although U.S. District Court officials confirmed Warfield filed the lawsuit Thursday, Board President Bob Briscoe said recreation centers officials have yet to be served with paperwork.

"We have no knowledge of a lawsuit," Briscoe said.

Warfield did not return calls this morning.

According to the lawsuit, Warfield, who is black, alleges he was put on probation for 60 days in July after he had filed a complaint with the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. He was eventually fired Sept. 14 by the governing board in a closed-door meeting, Briscoe said

Warfield was fired over his job performance, not his race.

"He was terminated because he wasn't meeting his job duties in the eyes of the board and the corporation," he said.

Briscoe also said the EEOC complaint against the association had been dismissed, and the recreation centers has only one complaint from Warfield regarding discrimination. That incident occurred about the time Warfield was hired, but that matter was dealt with at the time, Briscoe said.

"There's never been any complaint about it, except in his EEOC complaint," he said. "(Warfield's) complained about it once, and that's the only one on

file."

EEOC officials could neither confirm nor deny they were investigating the recreation centers on a complaint from Warfield, but said they would not have had time to file a lawsuit if the complaint was issued in July.

Regardless of the outcome of a commission investigation, a person filing a complaint will receive either a notice there wasn't information to validate their complaint or there was reason to continue the investigation. In either case, the commission will send a "right to sue" notice allowing those filing a complaint to carry out legal action on their own, said Susan Grace, deputy director of the commission's Phoenix district office.

Lawsuit alleges history of racism

WARFIELD: Fired manager says Rec Centers board systematically discriminated against him

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jim Warfield said his climb up the management ladder at the Recreation Centers of Sun City was peppered with racial slurs and salaries that did not measure up to those of his white predecessors.

From a time shortly after he was hired in January 1984 as a warehouse manager/buyer for the Centers at \$6.25 an hour to the day last month when he was fired from his \$79,500 general manager's job, Warfield felt discrimination in word and wage, according to a lawsuit he filed on Sept. 28 in U.S. District Court.

Following a 60-day probation period, Warfield was fired Sept. 13 after a discussion and vote by the full board of directors, according to a press release issued by the board Sept. 14.

Warfield's lawsuit against the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. includes three counts: racial discrimination, retaliatory wrongful termination and wrongful termination in violation of the Arizona Employment Protection Act.

Warfield did not return repeated phone calls about his case; however his lawyer, Elizabeth Faulkner of Faulkner and Associates, based in

See Warfield alleges, A5

'Jim's not after the money, but at some point someone's got to stand up and make it clear this is not the 1960s.'

Elizabeth Faulkner
Warfield's lawyer

From A1

Scottsdale, said the case is clearly racially motivated.

"Jim's not after the money, but at some point someone's got to stand up and make it clear this is not the 1960s," Faulkner said.

Bob Briscoe, the Recreation Centers' board president, would not comment on the specifics of the lawsuit other than to say it contains inaccuracies.

"He's the highest-paid general manager and worked there longer than any other general manager," said Briscoe, who received the lawsuit Oct. 4.

However, Warfield's lawsuit states otherwise.

When Warfield was first promoted from the warehouse manager's job to a purchasing manager and a warehouse manager/buyer, his pay rose to \$23,500 annually, the same as the former purchasing manager received for the one job.

Then in 1990, he was promoted to general manager while continuing his duties as both purchasing manager and warehouse manager/buyer, with his pay going up to \$50,000 a year, according to the lawsuit. The former general manager was paid \$65,000 a year for the same position, the lawsuit states.

Warfield was then offered the permanent position as general manager, while still carrying out his duties as purchasing manager, and the lawsuit states his salary of \$60,000 a year was still less than the previous white general manager's.

In November 1998, Warfield was issued a letter of severe reprimand as a result of an audit by a law firm retained by the board. Warfield challenged the letter, and the board withdrew the letter of reprimand without explanation in January 1999, the lawsuit states.

During his 60-day probation period, Warfield was told to bring "all levels of his job performance to an acceptable level," but was never told specifically what areas needed to be corrected, the lawsuit states.

"The board offered to meet with Warfield at any time during the probationary period to identify any areas which needed improvement or to otherwise assist him in complying with their new requirements," the lawsuit states. "Yet, when Mr. Warfield asked the board for such a meeting, he was told the individual board members may choose

not to meet with him. Mr. (Bob) Briscoe, (board president), could not advise Mr. Warfield of the board's specific reasoning, but could only 'offer his impressions.'"

Then, without any warning Warfield was informed he was terminated on Sept. 13, the lawsuit states.

On July 14, Warfield filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the lawsuit states because of this filing, Warfield "was wrongfully terminated in retaliation for his complaints of discrimination."

A phone survey had been conducted by the board after the EEOC charge of discrimination and an 8 to 1 vote had been cast in favor of his termination, the lawsuit states.

Also, the only performance evaluations that are in Warfield's personnel file up to 1997 were all satisfactory, the lawsuit claims.

"At all times throughout his employment with Sun City, Mr. Warfield has carried out his job duties in a satisfactory manner," the lawsuit states.

However, Briscoe said other than one case of racist remarks where the employee was reprimanded for the remarks, "never again did Warfield file any other complaints."

Although an award amount has not been filed, Warfield is requesting compensatory damages, past and prospective lost wages and benefits, plaintiff's costs and attorneys fees and "all other relief that the court deems just and equitable."

Warfield has "suffered and continues to suffer emotional and mental anguish, manifesting itself in physical ailments, requiring him to incur medical bills," which Faulkner said includes headaches and the general anguish one experiences after being fired from a long-term job.

"What is it like to have worked for a company for 15 years and be held back constantly because of your race?" Faulkner said. "What's it like to have your career taken before you a couple years before you plan to retire? What's a man's dignity worth? How do you eradicate situations that are so insidious? Unfortunately, no amount of money will make this right."

The board will be represented by Teilborg, Sanders and Tarks.

Hayley Ringle can be reached by e-mail at hrringle@aztrib.com or by calling 876-2519.

Board mulls reducing food service at Bell

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY: Directors try to stem three-year flow of red ink from coffee shop

BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

If board members approve the plan at their next meeting, the coffee shop at Bell Recreation Center in Sun City will be downgraded to a snack bar.

But better food service, including restaurant-style dining, will continue to be offered at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Treasurer Harold Boudrie announced at Monday's study session of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors.

The revamped operation at the Bell center, 16200 N. 99th Ave., would offer a complete breakfast, lunches, sandwiches and soup — roughly the same menu golf-course snack bars now serve.

The change is part of a plan to cut

food-service losses at the centers, and, if approved, likely will take effect Nov. 1.

In addition, the plan — which Boudrie said was approved by the Food Committee and Food Manager Joanne Pallas — includes:

- Closing the food warehouse on the grounds of the Willowcreek/Willowbrook golf course.

- Transferring the warehouse clerk (Al Lisandrelli) to Bell, in an office just off the snack bar.

- Provisioning other food-service operations from storage at Bell Center, with food ordered just once a week.

- Using paper and plastic serving items to eliminate the need for a dishwasher.

Boudrie told the board the moves would save the current annual \$69,000 warehouse operating cost and reduce wages at Bell because of a lower level of service.

The board has been struggling to find a remedy for food-service losses for months.

Boudrie said Monday that food service at Bell lost \$32,000 in 1998, \$54,000 in 1999 and was running

\$78,000 in the red through the first eight months this year.

Board President Bob Briscoe said the pending changes "represent a lot of work and a lot of effort on the part of food-committee members toward solving this problem."

Boudrie, board members Jerry Swintek and Ted Haupt and resident Tom Whiston are on the committee.

Director John Powell suggested the moves be made on a temporary basis "and see if it's convenient for our members."

Haupt noted that with word of the impending change already leaking out, "there's a petition circulating at Bell already asking us to keep things the way they are." He and Briscoe stressed the plan does not involve closing down food service at Bell, as some seem to think.

"If you want a full-menu meal for dinner, all you have to do is drive three minutes to Lakeview to get it," Briscoe said. The matter will be up for a vote at the board meeting on Oct. 26 — but with seven members at the study session all agreeing with the idea, passage seems assured.

Board adds teeth to fee collection

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY:

Delinquent accounts not paid within 30 days of letter receipt will feel the bite

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

If you haven't paid your annual recreation fees in a while, beware — the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors is going to start cracking down on delinquent accounts beginning in November.

There are an estimated 30 accounts past due, with about \$98,000 due, said Dick Ohnstad, a director and chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee.

Ohnstad is working with attorney Robert Sislock, hired specifically to deal with the problem and set up guidelines for people who haven't paid the annual \$130 fee.

"I'm glad the board is doing something," said Monica Staab, membership supervisor for the recreation centers.

Starting Nov. 1, those residents who have outstanding balances will be sent a letter asking them to pay up within 30 days or legal action will be taken, Ohnstad said. If the balance is paid within that 30-day period, no other

charges except the regular \$10 late fee will be required, he said.

However, if the amount is not paid within the month, the case may go directly to administrative court, Ohnstad said.

Then the resident will not only be responsible for what is owed to the recreation centers plus the late fee, but will also have to pay 10 percent interest per year the recreation fee was not paid, attorney's costs and any other costs incurred in the filing process, he said.

"We need to start putting teeth into the program," Ohnstad said. "If they don't pay, it's going to be a little expensive for them."

Morton Reich, a Sun City resident jailed for failing to appear in court after allegedly threatening the Sun City Home Owners Association, is one of two accounts that have not been paid in several years, officials said — in Reich's case, since the late '80s.

Once the procedure is set in motion, the membership office will continue to send letters to residents who fail to pay their recreation fees. Other than putting a lien on a resident's property, no enforcement measures have been in place to collect the delinquent fees.

"We do need to collect past-due accounts so residents don't get the idea they can disregard payments," Ohnstad said.

For information, call the Recreation Centers of Sun City at 876-3000.

Hayley Ringle can be reached by e-mail at hrringle@aztrib.com or by calling 876-2519.

RCSC hires manager

GLENDALE MAN: Details sketchy about Jim Warfield's successor

STAFF REPORT

The board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City has hired a Glendale man with a background in hospital administration as its new operations manager.

Earl Feirabend was chosen Monday and will begin his new job by Thanksgiving. Feirabend was out of state unavailable for comment, and few details on his background were available as of this morning.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has been without an operations manager since Sept. 14 after the board fired Jim Warfield.

Feirabend has a strong background in business administration and comes highly qualified for the position, according to board President Bob Briscoe.

Feirabend has an MBA in business administration from

Cleveland State University and has worked for major hospitals and medical centers in his current job, Briscoe said.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Feirabend to the position on Monday, after inviting him back in for a second interview.

"The process was narrowing down the applicants and coming up with seven finalists," Briscoe said. "From there, we narrowed it down to two, before approving him to the position."

Briscoe said Feirabend was chosen from more than 40 applicants for the job and will be a perfect match for what Sun City needs.

"Basically, he has a tremendous background and has worked on many major projects throughout the country," he said. "He will be a great asset to the community."

10-31-2000

12-28-80

Rec centers assess needs for future

MONICA ALONZO-DUNSMOOR
DAILY NEWS-SUN

There are fewer people making their way to the fairways in the Sun Cities — and officials want to know if that's a telltale sign of the influence of incoming younger retirees.

Mauryne Young, a spokeswoman for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, said the use of golf courses and bowling alleys in Sun City West has dropped, but it's difficult to say why.

"The number of golf rounds are down, but the reason for it is not clear," she said. "We're not sure if it's the influence of the younger residents who are interested in tennis or other things. That is something we are looking at and are in discussions about."

Beverly Davis, a member of the board of directors for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, said Sun City also experienced a decline in golf and bowling.

Again, the reasons are unclear.

"There could be several reasons," she said. "Look at the age group of our community, and you have some people who are ill or hurt and can't play. We have deaths and there are people moving away and going back to their families. There could be a number of reasons, but we don't have specifics."

She said it was hard to speculate about the influence younger retirees have had on the changes, but expects they will reverse soon enough.

"It's a trend, and it will be like that for a few years, and then it will pick up," she said. "It's hard to say what their interests are. I've been here for 13 years, and it went down, it picked up and now it's down again. People change their minds about things and then later they go back to it."

What recreation centers officials do know is that younger retirees are not as interested in arts and crafts as older retirees.

Davis said interest in lapidary and silvercraft also has declined,

while participation in computer clubs has jumped.

A similar evolution into more active recreation is described in part in a survey commissioned by Del Webb Corp. to learn about the views and attitudes of Baby Boomers.

Many respondents said that while they don't have time for hobbies, they do plan to pursue them when they have more time.

The Boomers interviewed in the Del Webb survey said they planned to participate in sports and other activities during their retirement years, but not the traditional ones associated with today's retirees.

The survey reveals many Boomers plan to involve themselves with running and in-line skating, water skiing and sailing, hiking and hunting, basketball and baseball.

"The younger retirees are more physically active and more into outdoor sports, but it's not a blanket statement," Young said. "There are certainly a lot of our current residents who are very active."

The Sun Cities' recreation centers aren't about to discard traditional amenities in favor of what Boomers might prefer, but discussions are beginning to take place. Young said the centers will look at ideas to accommodate a residents.

"For a while bowling lines went down," she said. "They are coming back up because we instituted a vigorous learn-to-bow program. We have a whole new group of bowlers, some younger some older."

She said the recreation centers' management is looking closely at what changes, if any, need to be made.

"Our management is having unofficial talks with residents; it's an ongoing thing," she said. "We certainly want to meet the needs of the residents. We want to be careful. We don't want to frighten our residents. We're not taking anything away. There are things we need to add, and we look to our residents for guidance."

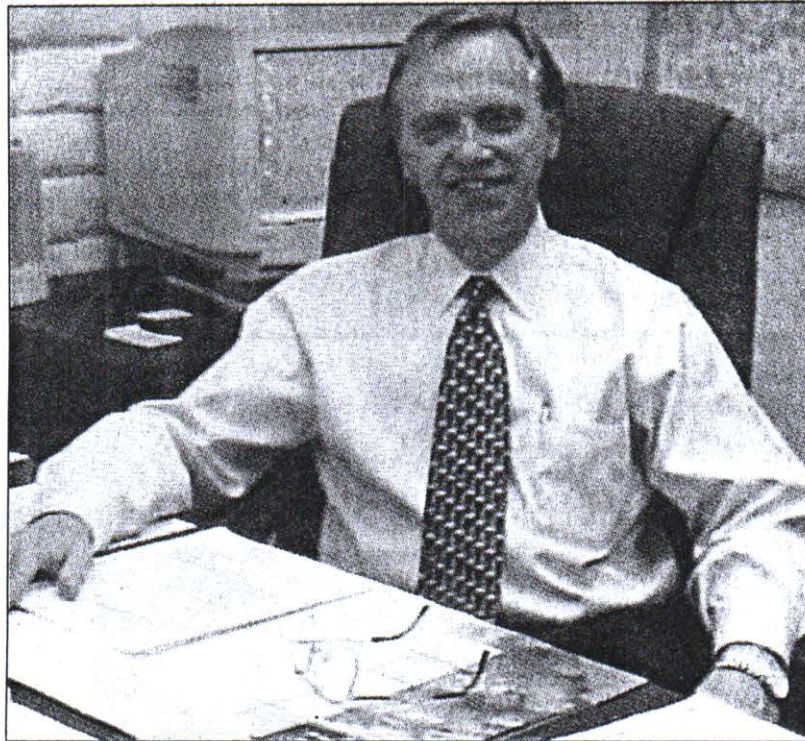


Photo by JULI NESSETT/Independent Newspapers
Earl Feierabend, Recreation Centers of Sun City's new centers operations manager takes a break from his duties to flash a quick smile.

Rec Centers operations manager looks forward to new year, challenges Customer service is top priority

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

The new centers operations manager for the Recreation Centers of Sun City looks forward to the new year with anticipation.

Earl Feierabend took his position in November 2000 and with him comes many new plans for the future of the RCSC. He brings with him a wealth of business knowledge and boundless enthusiasm.

Bob Briscoe, president of the RCSC board, said the board hired Mr. Feierabend because he stood out from all of the other candidates.

"When he interviewed, everyone was just so impressed. He just really stood out," said Mr. Briscoe.

Mr. Feierabend comes to Sun City from Pennsylvania, where he worked as a senior consultant for

Seimens Corporation.

He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cleveland State University. His undergraduate degree is in business administration and his master's is in organizational behavior.

As for his plans for the future of the RCSC, Mr. Feierabend has two areas on which he plans to concentrate. His top priority is customer service.

"The reason for the recreation centers' existence is the residents of Sun City and we have to pay special attention to those residents. If they didn't exist, we wouldn't exist," said Mr. Feierabend.

Although he thinks this issue has been addressed in the past, he believes it could use some updating.

See ■ **MANAGER**, Page 10

VF RECREATION CENTERS (General)

(over)

He would like to see some upgrading occur as well. However, Mr. Feierabend wants input from the residents as to how things should be done.

To facilitate this, he has created an open-door policy. He also has been visiting the rec centers, clubs and attending committee meetings.

"I want to know what they want to see and I would be glad to speak to anybody about what their concerns are," he said.

Mr. Feierabend is very pleased with board members, both those who have remained and those newly elected.

"I think they are very representative of everybody. They don't always agree but that's what makes a good board," noted Mr. Feierabend.

Some of the other things he is currently working on include, updating policies and procedures for the staff of the RCSC; developing an employee benefits guide; looking to see if there is anything more that can be provided in order to make working for the RCSC more attractive.

"We also want to be cost conscious and at the same time aware of the fact that our income comes from the resident," he explained.

Efficiency is an important concept for Mr. Feierabend as well.

One thing he would like to see become more efficient is the annual membership drive for the RCSC, during which all residents must go to the rec centers to pay their annual dues.

"Rather than having people come in and stand in lines, maybe we could have residents take care of things through the mail. Efficiencies like that will make living here more comfortable," said Mr. Feierabend.

He considers his biggest strength to be his exposure to many different facets of the business world.

"I worked with all levels of staff. I think that exposure has given me a pretty broad base for working with these people," he said.

He believes this helps keep workers happy in their employment and producing good products.

Although weaknesses often are hard to pinpoint, Mr. Feierabend said he sometimes tries to do too much.

He finds Sun City to be a very pleasant and happy place, filled with people with interesting stories and perspectives.

"The people that are here have a

great deal of wealth of experiences. I really enjoy experiencing this place with them," he said.

Another of Mr. Feierabend's goals is projecting a positive image.

"I want to make it a really positive experience for everybody," he explained.

Mr. Feierabend also will be reinstating the once a month "Listening Post," where residents can come and talk to him about any questions or concerns they may have.

He will hold a meeting at 10 a.m. Jan. 12 at Sundial Recreation Center to listen to those residents who use the spas at that center.

"One is broken and the other one needs repairs and we want input from residents who use this location to see what they want to do," he said.

Mr. Feierabend sees his role here as centers operations manager as a mediator. Although no one can be happy all the time, he wants to represent all sides so as many people can be satisfied and pleased as possible.

"The recreation centers are really a fabulous resource of Sun City. I'm really excited about this job. It's been a long time since I've felt this positive about a position. It doesn't mean it's easy but I really want to come to work," he said.

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2001

Resident threatens board recall

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Frustrated with the decision-making process of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, one resident is threatening a recall election.

Via certified mail Friday afternoon, Anne Randall Stewart informed the board she "has no other recourse" than to ask for a recall because board

members refuse to listen to residents' concerns about controversial issues.

Bob Briscoe, the board's vice president, said he's not worried about the recall threat.

"Both the petition itself and the reasoning behind it aren't valid," he said. "A board member can be recalled for a couple of things, but not because one person is not getting their way."

Specifically, Stewart is upset

about the board's position on what she considers gutter eyesores on community golf courses.

"The board made a mistake with the cement gutters on the golf courses, and the only way I can get them to admit they were wrong is to threaten them with a recall," she said. "I don't want to force a recall, I just want

See Sun Citian, A5

Anne Stewart, pictured in this file photo behind her condominium by a gutter at issue in her battle with the Sun City Recreation Centers board of directors, plans to initiate a recall of board members.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

OVER

From A1

them to do what's right."

Stewart said she became involved in the issue of golf course gutters on Sept. 23, 1999, when a brook running through the Lakes West Golf Course was removed and a cement fixture was installed. She said she has been looking for ways to remove the cement structure to install "Del Webb-quality" water features on Lakes West, Willowcreek, Willowbrook and River View golf courses, but at the board's Jan. 8 study session, Briscoe quashed any discussion on the matter.

Stewart's home borders the golf course and is directly next to one of the gutters she is fighting to remove.

"I just wanted to find a way to fix it the correct way, but the board won't hear me out," she said. "Bob Briscoe might have removed himself from the lead position on the board, but he still keeps total control of the meetings."

Briscoe said the board has listened to Stewart's position and her plans are not feasible because of budget constraints.

"She brought this up a year ago to make the gutters look prettier," Briscoe said. "But the

money it would take to do what she's asking is just too much. The money cannot come out of the capital-preservation fund, because this is basically a beautification project."

The board has money available for maintenance and improvements to the community, but the funds cannot be earmarked for anything but capital improvements — and gutter replacement does not qualify, according to Briscoe.

Stewart said she solicited estimates from Del Webb contractor Pacific Aquascape to replace the Lakes West gutter with a "100 percent watertight, natural-looking stream" for \$213,000. The price includes replacement and removal of the deteriorating gutters.

The board, however, has decided to reinforce the existing cement gutters — a practice, Stewart said, that will devalue surrounding houses and only cover up a standing problem.

"They are just going to have to re-cement the gutters over and over and over again," she said. "But none of that is going to fix the problem."

Stewart is circulating an unofficial petition in the community asking for the five "gutter-supporting board

members" to be removed from their posts. She admitted, however, her petition is just a ploy to get her voice heard.

RCSC supplies the forms for any type of petition, whether it be for a recall election or for initiatives. It is the only acceptable petition in Sun City, and is a legally binding contract. Community bylaws do not allow for any type of petition other than the one that can be obtained at the RCSC office.

Briscoe, unphased by Stewart's threat, said most residents aren't bothered by the gutters.

"I agree, her plan would make it a lot prettier, but for the most part nobody sees the gutters anyway," he said. "She does (see them) because she lives along the golf course, but there is only one small spot that can be seen by the general public."

The gutters were installed to help ease the problem of ground deterioration and water loss; the brook seeped into the ground too quickly, Briscoe said. The new gutters allow water to be moved from one area of the course to another without eroding the ground or seeping into it.

Water in the gutters is used

for various golf course needs including irrigation. Briscoe said. By re-cementing the existing fixtures, he said, the only water loss would come from evaporation.

"What we did with the gutters is make them the most expedient and least intrusive way for us to conserve water," Briscoe said. "Our goal was to help our courses, not to make people angry. We gave (Stewart) every opportunity, but she is now over-exaggerating the facts."

Even though the issue of removing the cement gutters was ruled dead by the board earlier this month, the project can survive if Stewart — or anyone else in the community — takes the initiative to fund the project. Anyone attempting that, according to Briscoe, would need to form a committee and raise funds for the project.

"We asked her to do something like that when she first brought it up," he said. "We asked her to raise money for the project and then we could put it on the budget. It didn't happen. But anyone can do the same thing for next year or the year after."

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 876-2526.

Changes made in RCSC food service

Revenues increasing

By **JULI NESSETT**
Independent Newspapers

Residents of Sun City should be pleased with recent changes in food service at both Bell and Lakeview coffee shops.

Last October, residents were 'steamed' about the RCSC board of directors' decision to modify Bell coffee shop from a full-service restaurant into a snack shop.

Full service is back and everyone from management to patrons are delighted.

"I'm excited," said Extella "Ex" Smith, manager of Bell coffee shop who had been moved to Lakeview after the October change occurred. "I love working here. The people are so pleasant. They're like your family. I was away only two months, but when I came back it was like a big family reunion."

Director Art Little and his wife, Gretchen, are both very pleased

with the changes at Bell. Mr. Little noted if change had not been made, it was something for which he would have fought.

"This is great. It's one of the things I wanted to see happen when I came on the board," said Mr. Little.

Mrs. Little added a club she belongs to had stopped coming to the shop when it began serving meals on paper plates, but since the change the club has been meeting there once a week for breakfast.

Another patron of the shop said she was very disappointed when Bell was turned into a snack shop.

"It looks like it's going in the right direction," she said. "We're



Ron Tudor

See ■ FOOD, Page 5

very happy they changed it."

Chuck and Pat Halla, winter residents from Wisconsin, said they were upset about the change in October and are now very happy diners.

But the shift of Bell back to a full-service coffee shop is not the only thing happening in RCSC's food service.

Ron Tudor took over as food service manager Jan. 2 and since that time has made numerous changes and improvements.

Mr. Tudor comes to this position with an extensive resume in the industry of food service. After working at the Arizona club for over 12 years, he opened and operated The Pointe at Squaw Peak as operations manager of The Hole in the Wall. Following his time there, Mr. Tudor opened both Scottsdale's and Camelback's Black Angus, where he worked for 1 1/2 years as general manager and from there he opened his own food service consulting business.

Mr. Tudor also worked as an instructor at Scottsdale Culinary Institute for six years.

With Mr. Tudor's arrival, both Bell and Lakeview are now offering more specials and soups made from scratch. Menu items such as meat loaf and lasagna are also homemade.

Servers were required to attend training sessions, which Mr. Tudor said has improved service.

New menus with price increases were placed in Bell as of Feb. 6, but price increases were not noticeable, according to one patron.

According to Mr. Tudor, prices have increased by 7 or 8 percent, but he believes patrons will not have a problem with it.

"Nobody likes increased prices and I don't either, but they were necessary," said Mr. Tudor.

According to Harold Boudrie, director and treasurer of the RCSC board, food service lost about \$143,000 last year.

"I think our customers are aware of rising costs and aware that food service has been a non-profitable part of our community," said Mr. Tudor.

Mr. Tudor said residents have noticed the changes in quality and service, citing the fact Bell is now doing 4 1/2 times the business it had done in the past and Lakeview's operation is up 45 percent.

However, there are many matters still on the agenda for Mr. Tudor.

"We are in bad need of new equipment," he said. "We have a lot of old Band-Aided equipment. The addition of a few more pieces would allow for more catering, which has all kinds of potential."

However, items such as new equipment will have to be held at least until summer, in order to get everything else running smoothly.

"We need to get what we have situated in a profitable basis and then we can move ahead. But we need to get what we have on its feet first," explained Mr. Tudor.

"Food service can be successful," said Mr. Tudor. "It is going to take a lot of time, better training, a better food product, better customer service and a more committed employee."

Currently both coffee shops are understaffed, and Mr. Tudor is hoping to hire more high-quality employees in the future.

"We have a lot of employees that have been very committed, but some aren't. So we are looking for more committed employees than we have had in the past," he said.

Residents with ideas or constructive criticism for Mr. Tudor are welcome to call 876-3049.

Daily News-Sun • Friday, Feb. 23, 2001

RCSC sees income dip

SUN CITY:

January shortfalls ominous for 2001 RCSC annual income

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Although they ended the year 2000 in the black, Recreation Centers of Sun City board members are seeing red.

The members on Thursday morning discussed the finance report for January, which shows income is more than \$125,000 below the projected budget. The main areas of concern are with golf and food services.

"Our expenses have increased — and increased considerably," board treasurer Harold Boudrie said. "January, February, March and April are the good months because when you get to summer our expenses, stay the same, but our income goes down."

But with January already



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Joe Paul and Gerry Foti catch dinner at the Bell Recreation Center Cafe on Valentine's Day. drop in food service revenues has contributed to projected RCSC budget shortfalls.

causing problems for RCSC's finances, Boudrie asked for suggestions on how to increase revenue.

"Yes, we had some bad

days in January with the weather, but we just feel people aren't playing golf on the good days either," he said.

"We also need to work on our

food services."

RCSC is reporting a loss \$127,301 in its year-to-date budget, with its only lifeline

See RCSC sees,

From A1

being the Capital Preservation Fund, which has increased more than \$95,000 for the year. In January alone, the income from golf and food services came in about \$20,000 short of what was projected.

Also contributing to the budget deficit is the increase in golf course maintenance costs.

Board President Jerry Swintek said January's problems mainly stem from frost and rain, which caused revenue to be off considerably from what was expected.

"It was good news to hear we made budget for 2000, but this January was just a whole different story," he said.

On the upside, Boudrie said, efforts made by the food service workers have pulled income for February ahead of January.

"If we can keep our heads

above water and do what we can do," he said, "then I think we can stay in the black for a while, if not for the entire year."

Capping off the meeting, board members unanimously approved three minor bylaw changes to update the inner workings of the community's recreation centers.

"We've been updating our bylaws by working with the new staff," said Bob Briscoe, board vice president. "We will have some minor ones throughout the year, probably coming once a month."

The first bylaw to be updated was changing the chartered clubs quorum requirement to reflect a broader base of club members.

Under the change, a quorum for clubs with 100 members or fewer will be 20 percent of the membership; for 101 to 400 members, a quorum will be 10 percent of the membership; and for those clubs with more than 400

members, a quorum will be 5 percent.

"The reason behind this change is that we have some clubs in Sun City with 50 members," board member Art Little said. "Under the previous bylaw, that means five people can make the executive decisions. The change will allow for a more diverse cross of the membership making the decisions."

The previous bylaw considered 10 percent of the membership a quorum — no matter the size of the club.

The second bylaw change made Thursday was increasing the fee charged to chartered clubs during the Annual Arts and Crafts Festival. The fee increased from 3 percent to 5 percent of a chartered club's gross sales to cover utility and maintenance expenses.

The final bylaw to be amended Thursday allows non-residents to rent RCSC facilities as long as Sun City residents will be in

attendance.

"What this change actually does is delete a sentence not allowing outsiders to rent RCSC facilities for wedding or other events," Briscoe said. "With the change, this allows us to have weddings for outside people as long as Sun City people will be there. We couldn't do that in the past."

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APRIL 18-24, 2001

HOA may join RCSC on monthly newsletter

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

The Sun City Home Owners Association may be joining the Recreation Centers of Sun City in efforts to produce a joint monthly newspaper.

During HOA's monthly meeting April 10, members of the board listened to a presentation by RCSC Director Art Little.

Mr. Little told HOA the RCSC has decided to produce a newspaper rather than the *Spotlight* and *Boardtalk*, both of which have been around for over many years and distributed as leaflets or newsletters.

According to RCSC Director Bev Davis, it is hoped the newspaper will provide better communication to Sun City residents.

"Members are always saying there is not enough communication. Well, this will give us more space to let everyone know what is going on," she said.

Mr. Little offered HOA the possibility of having a half-page in each issue and requested \$6,000 a year for the space.

Mr. Little said only those organizations with a reserved space are being asked to contribute money to the project, but any organization, club, etc., who has an interest or provides a service to Sun City will have a voice in the paper.

The RCSC hopes to launch the new newspaper in August or September. It will be tabloid size — 13 inches high by 11 inches wide — and approximately 8 to 12 pages a month.

The RCSC is currently interviewing candidates for the position of editor. The editor, in addition to writing and producing the newspaper, will also act as a public relations person for the Rec Centers.

If HOA agrees to join with the RCSC, all copy will be prepared by the RCSC.

"You give us the raw information and we'll do the rest," said Mr. Little.

Currently, the HOA produces a biennial newsletter, which comes out in spring and fall. Cost of producing this four-page newsletter is just under \$5,000.

According to Ione Boynton, HOA executive director, if HOA were to join with the RCSC, they would cease the production of their newsletter.

Ms. Boynton said it looks like HOA directors are moving in the direction of joining the RCSC.

The RCSC is also courting Sun Health and the Sun City Library with the possibility of reserving space in the newspaper.

Sun City Recreation Centers plans new format for newsletter

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

Residents of Sun City will soon be getting information about the Recreation Centers of Sun City in a new and expanded form.

According to Art Little, RCSC director and co-chair of the new newspaper committee, it will be dedicated to the services and residents in Sun City.

"Any organization, club, etc., that has an interest or provides a service to Sun City will have a voice in the paper," he said.

The new format will be a tabloid size paper (13 inches high and 11

inches wide) 8 to 12 pages long and read like a magazine, rather than the traditional newspaper format.

This new format will replace the Spotlight, but will still be distributed monthly through the *Independent*.

The RCSC has also hired a new editor and communications coordinator, Chuck Moser.

Mr. Moser will edit the paper and produce all of the collateral materials needed by the RCSC.

The new format will a warmer and more up-to-date style of publication, said Mr. Moser.

Mr. Little said the paper will have a variety of columns by the RCSC president and directors and it will also have a question and answer section.

Residents will be able to send in their questions and they will be answered within the paper, provided they give their name, address and rec card number.

The new publication is planned to launch in August or September. Cost is estimated to be \$2,000 a month for printing and inserting.

No advertising will be included in the new publication.

Mr. Little said the board decided to change the format for two reasons.

"First, because of change and secondly because of the quality of what we'll be doing," he explained.

He also said the new format will

bring much more important information to the resident.

Currently, there is a committee of 12 which will be working on the new paper. Mr. Little said they are still looking for volunteers.

The Sun City Homeowners Association will join the RCSC in its new effort and will have a half-page in each issue. HOA will no longer produce its biennial newsletter now that the two forces have joined.

RCSC is also courting the Sun City Library and Sun Health in its efforts to bring information to the residents.

Although plans are complete as far as the paper's appearance, what types of information it will be contain, where it will be printed, etc., the publication still lacks a name.

The RCSC is running a contest through June 8. Residents are invited to send in their ideas and the winner will be announced at the June 28 board of directors meeting.

First place will receive a \$10 guest punch card, second will win two dinners at either Bell or Lakeview coffee shop and third will receive two free breakfasts at either of the shops.

Send entries to Art Little at RCSC, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351.

For more information about volunteering for the paper, call the board office at 876-3000.

Vote could change RCSC charter

BOARD TERMS:
Residents concerned
about possible
improprieties

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

With an article of incorporation change coming up for a vote Thursday, some Sun City residents are worried the board of directors is railroading the issue.

Several months ago, the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors decided that keeping experienced

board members was worthy of changing its articles of incorporation. RCSC is governed by a board of nine members, each allowed to serve one three-year term. If the proposed change is approved, board members could serve two terms, for a total of six years.

Several Sun Citians have been concerned there is a lack of information available to them about the vote — some saying the RCSC board is deliberately withholding information to ensure the vote's passage.

"It wasn't until I read it in your newspaper that I knew anything about it," Helen Thompson said Tuesday. "I talked to the board members about it, and they said it was

advertised for several months with information at all the golf courses. I checked at two courses and didn't see anything."

In addition, Thompson said, the absentee ballots potentially could be mishandled.

"I turned in my absentee ballot after reading about the vote, and there wasn't even a box to put it into," she said. "It was just taken and put behind the counter."

Board members, however, said they are shocked residents would have problems with the proposed change.

"We are doing this for the good of Sun City," said Bob Briscoe, board vice president. "I've said it time and time again. I don't know of anyone on the current board who wants to run again, but I don't feel we should eliminate those who do from the equation."

Briscoe also said news of the vote has been made readily available to all Recreation Centers card holders through RCSC's monthly newsletter and through postings at golf courses and all the community's recreation centers.

"We have nothing to hide," board President Jerry Swintek said at the meeting. "If someone wants to come and oversee the process, then we will have them. It's ridiculous to think that we are trying to cheat the rec card holders."

Because of the questions, Swintek said several third-party observers will be on hand to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the vote. Among them are Nick Salamone, who originally posed the question of an election oversight group.

The issue goes to a vote of Centers card holders at 9 a.m. Thursday in the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Proxies were available to winter residents who already left for the summer; they are still available to members who cannot make it to this month's meeting. Call the RCSC office at 876-3060 for proxy information.

Whiston said the ballot boxes will be opened for inspection prior to the vote Thursday to show they are not being stuffed with bogus votes.

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 876-2526.

"We have nothing to hide. If someone wants to come and oversee the process, then we will have them. It's ridiculous to think that we are trying to cheat the rec card holders."

RCSC board President Jerry Swintek

Easy identification

YELLOW FEVER: RCSC staff now wear bright color for easy identification, pride

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It's not so much image as convenience that RCSC was going for.

Nonetheless, Recreation Centers of Sun City staff members are now donning brand-new golf shirts that easily set them apart from the crowd. The bright yellow shirts are designed to allow residents to find employees easier.

"We are providing monitors and other workers similar colored shirts so that they can be identified by residents," RCSC Manager Earl Feierabend said. "Providing the shirts also helps with the clothing expense for the workers."

Feierabend said about half of RCSC's 450 employees have received the shirts, but as more money opens up in the budget, he's expecting to have all the front-line staff outfitted.

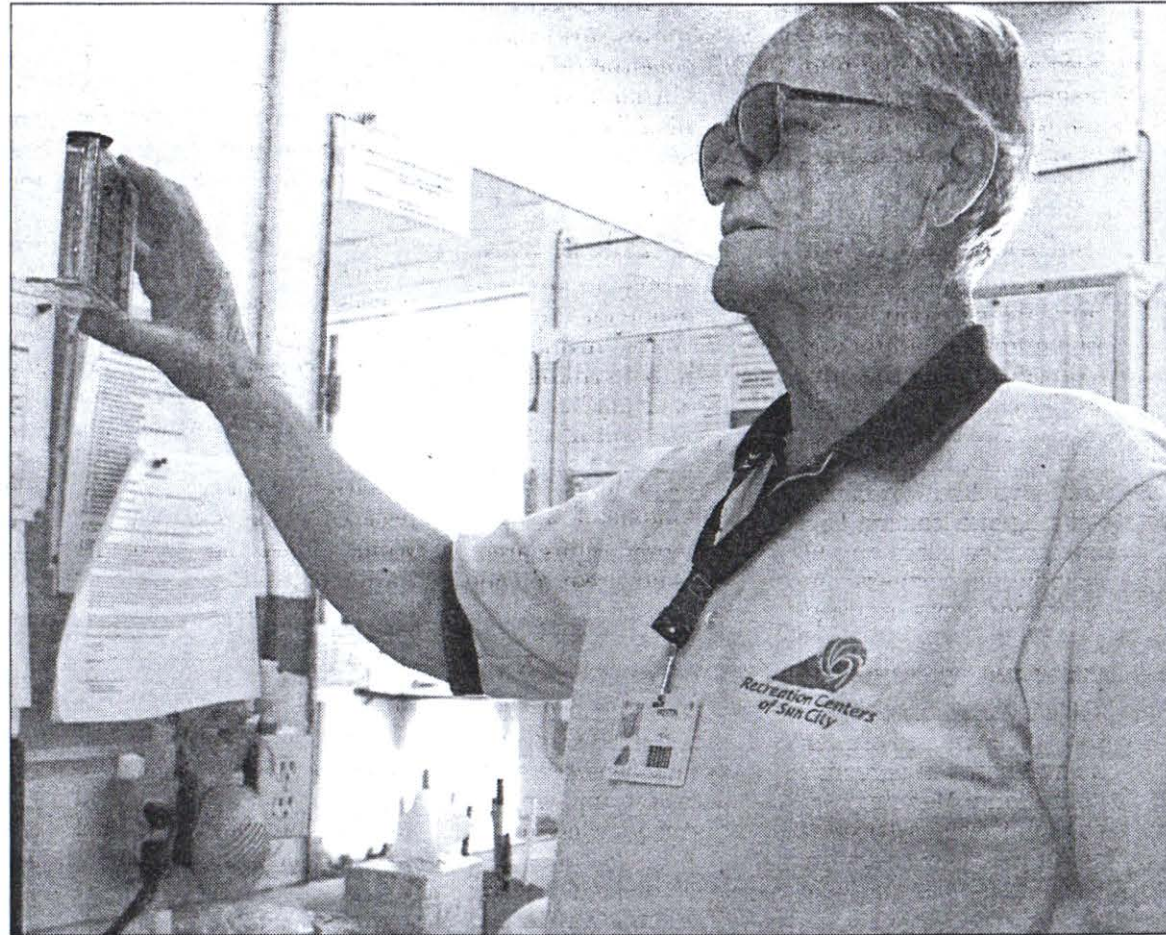
"This is a way for residents to see who the staff members are in case they need some help," he said. "Many of the staff members are also residents, so having a shirt rather than just a badge is helpful to people looking for some help."

In addition to centers staff members wearing the shirts, employees on the golf courses are sporting the same threads. Feierabend said all employees who come in contact with residents will eventually be provided a shirt.

"One of the hardest things we had about the shirts was determining colors for the workers," he said. "We have a lot of employees who get dirty pretty regularly because of the work they do. So, we had to come up with a color that would hide some of that dirt."

Because the shirts are bought in bulk, Feierabend said it is difficult to determine the actual cost of each shirt, although he did say they were fairly expensive.

With RCSC's budget falling dangerously close



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lakeview Recreation Center pool monitor Preston Welch checks the chemistry of the water. Welch is wearing a Recreation Center logoed shirt

to the red month after month, officials said the shirts were still worth the money because of the convenience it offers residents.

"You look around and you see the people in the yellow shirts and you know you can go to them for help," RCSC board President Jerry Swintek said. "And the shirts offer a lot of pride to the workers. It gives people a sense of belonging and purpose."

In addition, the centers' budget showed signs of recovery last month as revenues continue to rise and expenses are slowly being cut.

Budget constraints have put some of the shirt orders on hold for a while, but RCSC officials expect to have all front-line staff in the outfits by the end of the year.

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Daily News-Sun • Friday, July 6, 2001

Repairs drain RCSC coffers

EXPENSES EXCEED INCOME: After years of bandages, buildings need overhaul

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The budget is wearing thin — as are the roofs, the walls, the seals and paint.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has slowly been undergoing an overhaul. From air-conditioning units at its restaurants to a new roof at Lakeview to repairs on its spas, RCSC buildings are in "dire need of repair" according to officials. Fixing the problems are a priority, but money for the repairs is dwindling.

"I wouldn't say it's making the board nervous. They are just things that need to get done," RCSC director Beverly Davis said. "For so long, everything was just patched up and now it is getting fixed

the right way. That's why it's costing us so much money now."

The RCSC board of directors has blamed the deterioration of the buildings on former RCSC manager Jim Warfield, who was terminated from the post late last year. Earl Feirabend has since replaced Warfield.

According to board members, Warfield was not as thorough with his inspections of the recreation center buildings, which caused more problems than solutions. Moreover, Feirabend has been very thorough in his inspections, which have led to more major repairs.

Jerry Swintek, RCSC board president, said for years the buildings have

received patch work, but it's come time to fix the problem the right way.

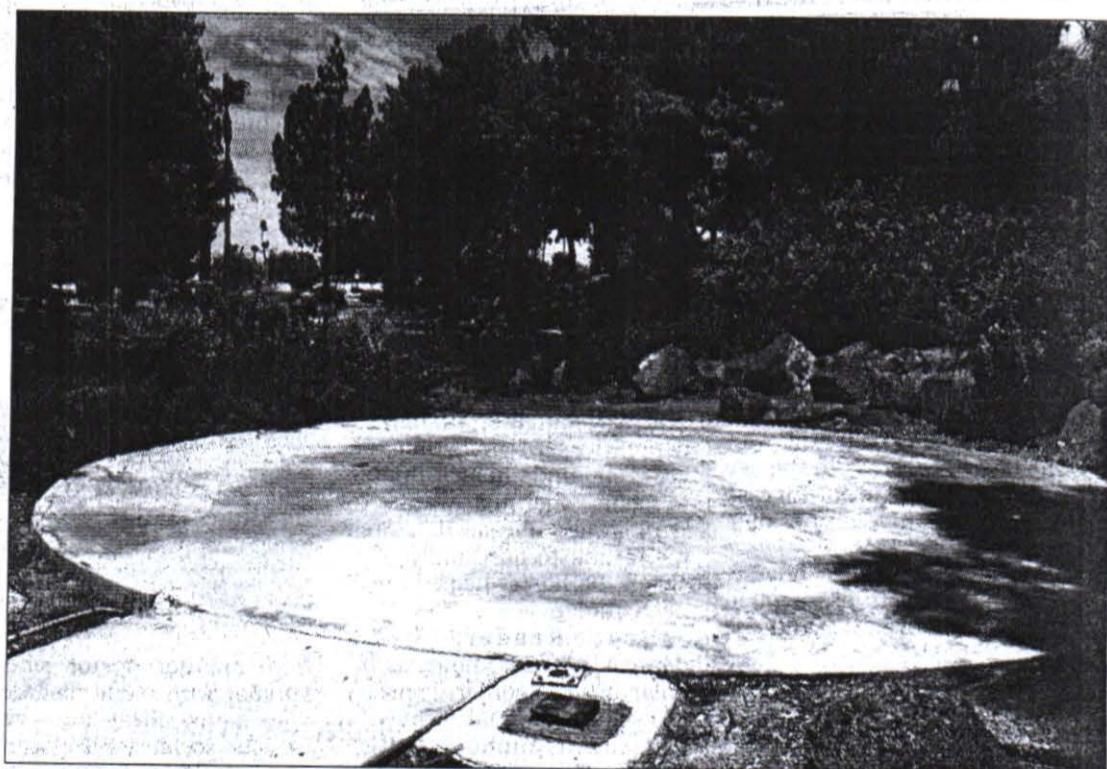
Although the repairs are inevitable, according to board officials, they couldn't have come at a worse time.

Since the beginning of the year, board treasurer Harold Boudrie has expressed his concerns about RCSC's budget. Expenses have overshoot income month after month, and just in May, the reserve funds were dipped into at a cost of some \$500,000. In previous years, building upgrades have been included in the budget, but Warfield's firing caused some problems determining the budget for the current year.

"If it wasn't for the reserve fund, we'd be in pretty bad shape," Boudrie said.

Davis said although the reserves have been tapped, the problem stems from the

See Repairs burden, A4



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

This is one of three spots where pagodas are being placed on the mountain behind Lakeview Recreation Center at a cost of more than \$100,000.

JL

From A1

unknown when this year's budget was adopted.

"You have to remember that Earl (Feirabend) didn't start until Nov. 20 last year," she said. "That was after the budget was already made. Now we have to adjust for everything that we didn't know about."

Repairs for recreation center buildings have to be approved by the board before they are considered in the budget. Most of the repairs come on the recommendation of the RCSC manager.

Because unbudgeted expenses have taken their toll on the RCSC budget, there has been talk of increasing Recreation Center fees by \$10 come Jan. 1.

But some residents are expressing concern that the budget crisis and the building problems should have been foreseen by the board of directors.

"I wonder how these people on the board run their household budgets, can they just ask for more money if they overspend?" Sun City resident Ed Fumia asked. "It seems our board doesn't understand how to establish and maintain a budget and how to live within the same. If they continue on this same path, many retirees will be looking elsewhere for their home in paradise."

Because of low income and high expenses, RCSC has all but dissolved its projected budget for the year, according to Boudrie, and has since just compared its status with that of last year.

Year to date, RCSC's income is close to \$64,000 less than 2000, with its expenses close to \$280,000 more than last year.

Some residents have said the problems of the budget are Feirabend's fault, because he is suggested many repairs that could be left alone for a while. Board

members, however, said neglecting 40-year-old buildings when a repair is necessary is not in the best interest of anyone in the community.

"What Earl has done is stopped the band-aid system that we had going one here," RCSC director Dorothy Hirtzel said. "He's stopped the practice of just patching things up and concentrated on fixing the problems. Everybody has been really pleased with his efforts."

In addition, board members also have praised Feirabend on his work ethic, reporting he's been at various recreation centers early in the morning to very late at night.

"He knows what's going on with every aspect of his job," Hirtzel said. "When you ask him a question, he doesn't need to call someone, he knows the answer."

Anne Stewart, who has been outspoken against some of the practices of RCSC, said the board will do anything that Feirabend asks for, regardless of price.

"They are planning to spend \$350,000 to fix a leaking spa at Sundial, which should cost no more than \$1,500," she said. "And they want to spend another \$125,000 for a pagoda on Lakeview Mountain that's merely a roof on poles with a simple fence around it."

Although the pagoda doesn't have any the amenities of a house, Stewart said, it is still costing more than many of the homes in Sun City.

The pagodas fell into disrepair several years ago and have been something the board has been looking to replace for a while now, according to Briscoe. Construction on the project is expected to begin sometime this month.

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 876-2526.

SC Rec Centers prepare for 1st edition of 'Sun Views'

New tabloid will take the place of monthly 'Spotlight'

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

Sun City Rec Center members be prepared — the premier of *Sun Views* is right around the corner and it is full to the brim.

According to Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. Director Art Little, the final edit of RCSC's new newspaper was to be completed Aug. 15.

Mr. Little expressed great appreciation to the membership communication committee for all of its assistance in preparing the newly formatted informational tool.

"They are really a dedicated group of people," he said.

He also said with the talent and input of Chuck Moser, editor and communications coordinator, the paper was able to be put together quite smoothly.

Sun Views will feature a "Director of Center" column by Earl Feierabend, as well as "Course Happenings" by Director of Golf

Course Operations Manager Steve Ravenkamp, and the "President's Corner," a column by current Board President Jerry Swintek.

As of the third week of August, both the Sun City Libraries Inc. and Sun City Homeowners Association had agreed to assist the project financially.

The libraries will have a quarter of a page in each issue, while HOA will have a full page. HOA agreed to sign on for a trial run of seven months.

Mr. Little is also courting several other organizations for participation.

"The financial participation is helping to deflate the labor costs involved and at this point it looks like we are at a break even point," said Mr. Little.

The cost of producing *Sun Views*, which will be a tabloid size paper (13 inches high and 11 inches wide) 12 pages long, is \$24,000. The cost of producing *Board Talk*, *Spotlight*

and *Course Happenings* — three separate publications replaced by *Sun Views* — was approximately \$37,000, according to Mr. Little.

"I made a promise when I started this, that it wasn't going to cost any more money. And we're actually saving money because volunteers are doing most of the work," he said.

The publication will be distributed to all homes in Sun City through the *Sun Cities Independent*. The first edition will published Aug. 29. Additional copies will be available at the recreation centers.

Other specifics residents should expect to see are a volunteer of the month column, as well as columns about the importance and spirit of volunteers.

Upcoming schedules for events at clubs, rec centers and the Sun Bowl will be included, as well as the usual club meeting schedules.

See ■ SUN VIEWS, Page 7

Mr. Little said his team is considering expanding the club information pages in order to give more information about each one.

The back page of the current issue will explain the budget and also give informational contacts and phone numbers.

Mr. Little said the structure of the paper may change in coming months.

"The publication is in motion. It will change. It's got a life and may change to make it easier to reach and to allow for more information," he said.

He also said the membership communication committee has asked that enlarging the paper to 16 pages in 2002 be considered.

Mr. Little said he is pleased with how *Sun Views* is turning out.

"It's a promise that I made when I ran for election, to increase the flow of information to the members in this community," he said.

"This is the first step in that commitment that I made."

For more information, contact the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. at 876-3000.

Daily News-Sun • Friday, July 20, 2001

Changes draw resistance

RCSC OPERATIONS DIRECTOR: Earl Feierabend wants to refresh Sun City recreational facilities with an eye to future

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Spending has again taken center stage in Sun City, this time with some residents upset at the Recreation Centers of Sun City operations director's approach to rejuvenating the community.

Earl Feierabend, the operations director, has undertaken several projects to repair RCSC facilities, a task he says will pay dividends in the future.

"The improvements are for a number of reasons," he said Thursday. "They help to keep the property values up and make people want to live here. These improvements will make the difference between living in a slum and an upscale community."

Improvements already completed since Feierabend took his post last October include remodeling some club buildings, repainting some of the parking-lot stripes, expanding handicapped parking, replacing aging chairs and tables, replacing roofs at some of the centers and refinishing tennis courts.

Still other projects are in the works, some coming with a price tag of more than \$100,000 each. The two main ones involve replacing pagodas at Lakeview Recreation Center and revamping spas and locker rooms at Sundial Recreation Center. Because of the cost of the two projects, Feierabend said, the money will be taken from the Capital Improvement Fund rather than the RCSC budget.

Despite Feierabend's eye-on-the-future mentality, however, some residents have sharply criticized the costs involved, saying many are overblown and some of the projects aren't needed.

For his part, Feierabend said those people were not made aware of all the facts before they spoke against him.

"People who comment that these projects will raise rec fees are misinformed," he said. "There is a lot of work that goes into this, and the costs of fixing the problems were higher than the costs to replace them."

RCSC board President Jerry Swintek said Feierabend brings a degree of change to the centers, and

with any change, there will be people who embrace it and people who fight against it.

"There is a small minority of people in Sun City who speak very loud against some of the RCSC projects," Swintek said. "They speak in lies, and we cannot defend ourselves against lies. We give the facts, but sometimes that's just not good enough for these people."

In the case of the Sundial spa, Feierabend said, fixing the leaks and replacing the disintegrating plumbing would have cost just as much as moving them.

"It is difficult to assess the impact of making changes," he said. "Things are in a process and take time, and you never know how people will react to it. But all the changes — major and minor — will make this a destination spot, not just a place for people to pass through on their way to somewhere

else."

The RCSC board of directors has praised all of the projects completed since Feierabend took the helm as operation manager.

"He knows what's going on at the rec centers," board member Beverly Davis said. "He's stopped the Band-Aid system that was around here for so long."

Bob Briscoe, board vice president, said Feierabend might be spending a lot of money on the improvements, but each is necessary since the buildings are aging.

RCSC officials were quick to point out that many of the projects are on a small scale, even though it's the larger ones that draw the most criticism. The small projects include beautification upgrades at centers and improved customer service for residents.

"We are concentrating on the good of Sun City," Briscoe said.

"And what's good for Sun City are residents to work together rather than fighting against the board's decisions."

Feierabend added that the small improvements can make the biggest impact on residents' lives.

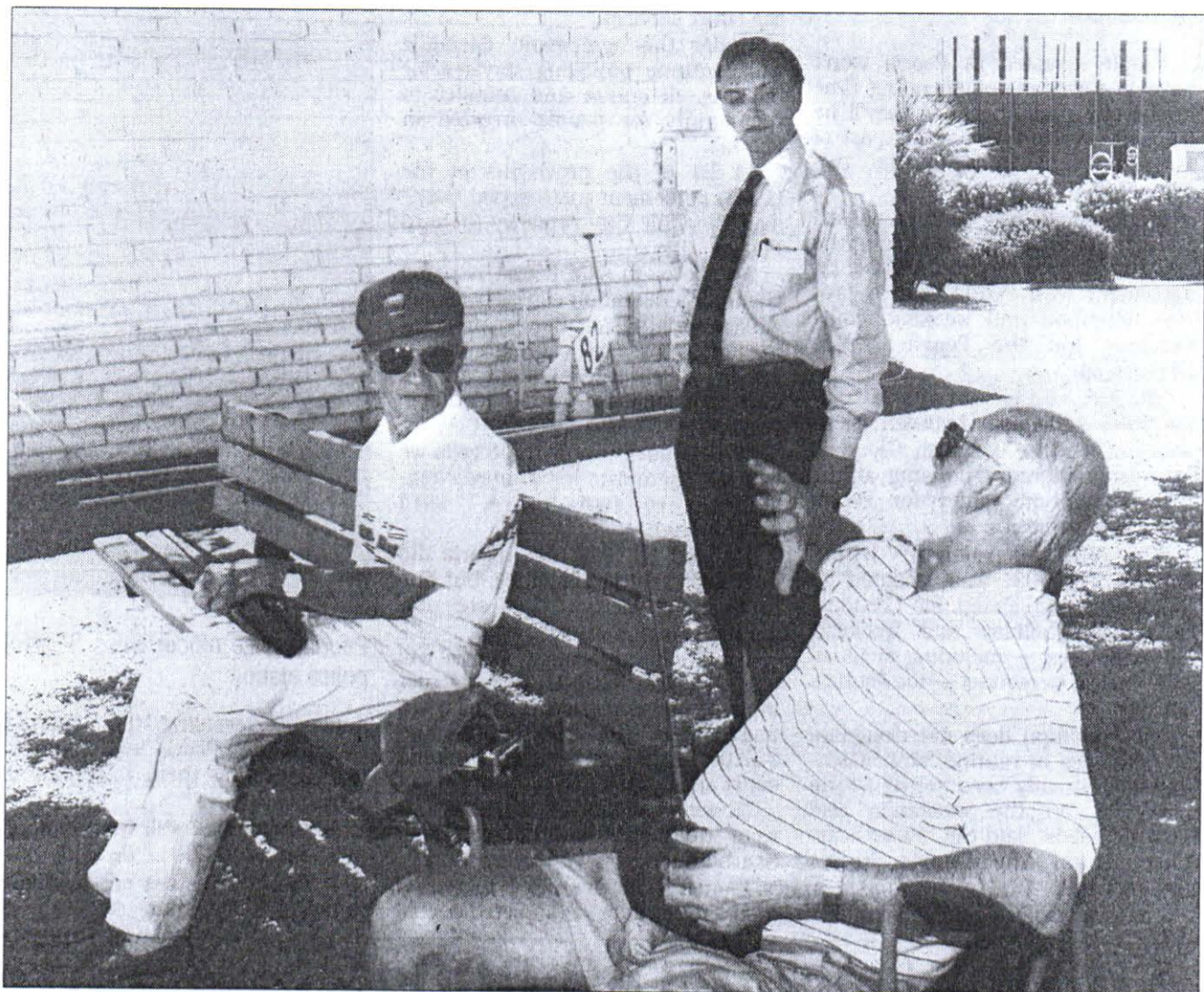
"With all of our projects, there has to be a reason and a benefit to a large majority of the people," he said. "It's better to do a little for a lot of people than to do a lot for a little bit. The only thing keeping us back at this time is the financing. But the changes will be an improvement for everyone."

One of the goals Feierabend said he is hoping to accomplish with the improvements is drawing more people to the recreation centers.

"I think they are under used right now," he said. "But we are going to make this into a real nice place to be."

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JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Earl Feierabend, Recreation Centers of Sun City operations director, talks with remote-control sailboat enthusiasts Elmer Dyer and Tom Pyszczynski Thursday outside Lakeview Recreation Center. Feierabend said he changed the rules to allow anyone access to the lake for remote-control sailboats, not just RCSC cardholders. Dyer and Pyszczynski have cards.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT AUG. 29-SEPT. 4, 2001

Sun City woman says she did not libel RCSC official

She considers legal action

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

Freedom of speech is one of the most highly revered rights included in the *Bill of Rights*. However, it is also one of the most hotly debated.

What does freedom of speech mean? When does someone cross the line within the boundaries of free speech?

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. and the attorney representing the corporation believe Sun City resident Anne Stewart has crossed the line.

On Aug. 11, Mrs. Stewart received a letter from Charles Kelhoffer, the attorney representing RCSC, stating she had maliciously libeled the name of Steve Ravenkamp, golf operations manager, and as a result she had interfered with his contract with the Rec Centers.

The letter demanded that Mrs. Stewart apologize to Mr. Ravenkamp in three ways, through a local newspaper, on her Web site and at a board meeting. If she did not perform these actions, the letter said litigation may ensue.

However, Mrs. Stewart does not believe an apology is warranted.

Jerry Swintek, RCSC board president, said the Rec Centers do not want to infringe on Mrs. Stewart's First Amendment rights.

"She's free to criticize if she feels the board is doing some things she doesn't agree with. But there's a point when you cross the line in free speech," explained Mr. Swintek. "If your actions cause damage to the relationship between the Rec Centers board and the director of golf operations, then you've crossed that line. When you accuse people of lying, when in fact they have not, you have crossed that line.

"We have no intent of stopping Mrs. Stewart and her Sun City Formula Registry from doing what they want to do, but they have to remain within the boundaries of free speech. They can't cross those lines where you are calling people liars. Those things you can't do," said Mr. Swintek.

Mr. Swintek added, the Rec Centers have not yet filed a lawsuit.

"We have asked her to take a specific action and if she does not, we will consider initiating litigation.

Specifically the letter to Mrs. Stewart listed five items, in which she had crossed that "line."

1. On April 29, 2001, you sent a registered letter to Mr. Ravenkamp threatening his job if he did not assist you in achieving your goals relating to streams through the golf courses.

2. On June 7, 2001, Mr. Ravenkamp received a copy of an e-mail that stated he had lied regarding various matters and demanding that he be fired.

3. In the annereport you falsely stated that Mr. Ravenkamp 'loves to remove trees' from golf courses.

4. In the annereport you falsely stated that Mr. Ravenkamp was 'not telling the truth.'

5. You contacted Cactus and Pine questioning Mr. Ravenkamp's qualifications and requested Cactus and Pine's assistance in finding a replacement for Mr. Ravenkamp. You were rebuffed by Cactus and Pine but the damage to Mr. Ravenkamp's reputation had been done."

Mrs. Stewart explained each of these instances.

As for the first complaint, Mrs. Stewart said it came about after she

had attended a golf meeting where Mr. Ravenkamp asked members to send him ideas for a "wish list" of things they would like to see happen on the golf courses.

Mrs. Stewart wrote Mr. Ravenkamp, asking that the new cement culverts be removed from the golf courses and natural-looking streams be put in their place.

According to Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Ravenkamp responded to her request, but said he would like to spend the money on other things for the courses like tees, greens and sand traps.

Mrs. Stewart's April 29 response to this letter is what is in question.

Specifically the letter stated, "Mr. Ravenkamp, after reflection, if you still hold onto your position that gutter eyesores are just fine in Sun City, then we must re-evaluate your contributions to Sun City. We need a golf manager who will restore our courses to Del Webb quality ... The golf manager position is the most important one to our survival. We need a person with strength, power, conviction and vision to fill those shoes. The views expressed in your last letter leave the impression you do not have what it takes to achieve these aims. Puny aims beget puny results. No disrespect intended, but please raise your sights and help us achieve our goal of having natural-looking streams on our golf courses, or move over and let us hire someone else who will, for the sake of Sun City's survival."

The second complaint is in reference to an e-mail Mrs. Stewart sent to a member of the SCFR, which she also sent out as copies to a few other people.

The letter was not sent to Mr. Ravenkamp, according to Mrs. Stewart.

The third and fourth complaints are in reference to Mrs. Stewart's Web site, www.annereport.com.

In the third complaint, Mrs. Stewart alleges that Mr. Ravenkamp told her, if he had, his way he would cut down all the trees on the golf course.

Mr. Swintek said this comment was not exactly as Mrs. Stewart had said.

"Mr. Ravenkamp said if he had it his way he would cut down all of the eucalyptus trees," said Mr. Swintek.

He added this was because of the mess the trees make during storms.

Mrs. Stewart said the fourth complaint was in reference to her opin-

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ion of dealings with Mr. Ravenkamp, which she has a right to.

The fifth complaint also brings a different story from Mrs. Stewart.

She contacted Cactus and Pine to check Mr. Ravenkamp's qualifications. Cactus and Pine is the Arizona Chapter of the Golf Course Association of America.

Mrs. Stewart had seen Mr. Ravenkamp in the 2001-2002 listings of membership, where he was listed as Class B member.

The definition of Class B was listed as follows: to qualify for Class B membership an applicant shall have completed, at the time of application for membership, less than three years experience as a golf course superintendent and be employed in such capacity.

Mrs. Stewart said she called the president of the association to see if Mr. Ravenkamp had been employed as a superintendent elsewhere, previous to his employment with the RCSC.

"At first he was reluctant to tell me but then after a discussion he relented and told me he (Mr. Ravenkamp) had become a Class B member because of this job," said Mrs. Stewart. "I did mention we were looking into Steve Ravenkamp because we were not pleased with him."

But Mrs. Stewart also said she did not seek a replacement from the organization's president. He could not be reached for comment.

"What would I do with a name? The board is not going to listen to me," she said.

After Mrs. Stewart received the letter from RCSC attorneys, she contacted a friend of hers, Vincent Bugliosi.

“

This was not an action taken without forethought. She has crossed the line absolutely according to our legal council.

Jerry Swintek

Mr. Bugliosi was a prosecuting attorney in California for a number of years, as well as a criminal defense attorney. He is now a writer and commentator on defense issues.

He successfully prosecuted Charles Manson and wrote the best-selling account of the sensational trial — "Helter Skelter."

Mr. Bugliosi informed Mrs. Stewart that her actions could not have caused contractual interference.

"If the board fired Mr. Ravenkamp because of anything I told them, it would be because they believed me and he deserved to be fired. But if they didn't fire him, there is no contractual interference because he still had his job, so there's no issue here," she said.

Mr. Bugliosi also told her that attorneys learn in the first year of law school about First Amendment protected speech.

He told her the standard of proving malicious intent for a public official is very, very high and if the truth is told there is no defense.

In addition, Mr. Bugliosi said if the court drops the case, Mrs. Stewart would have a cross complaint with two causes of action — malicious prosecution and misuse of process.

Mrs. Stewart also verified the standard of proof for proving malicious intent with the ACLU.

Currently, Mrs. Stewart is preparing a brief to hire an attorney for the case.

Mrs. Stewart said she had nothing personal against Mr. Ravenkamp, her purpose is to get everybody freed up in order to allow debate.

"I don't have any personal animosity. I just wanted to direct him toward our goal of having beautiful golf courses. Each thing we lose, we lose value in our community," she said.

Mr. Swintek said there is currently a board policy that says no one from the Rec Centers can talk to Mrs. Stewart other than himself.

"Based on her actions in the past we felt she would take information and turn it around from its original content," he explained.

Mr. Swintek added, he thinks public debate is important, but he doesn't feel Mrs. Stewart's actions fall under the definition of public debate.

He also defended the actions of RCSC attorney's.

"This was not an action taken without forethought. She has crossed the line absolutely according to our legal council," said Mr. Swintek.

In response to last week's article, Mrs. Stewart said three people have contacted her, saying they had also received threatening letters from the Rec Centers.

Currently, Mrs. Stewart has all links closed on her Web site, while she prepares her brief for attorneys. However, people can still register for her Sun City Formula Registry, which is anonymous.

Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Oct. 27, and Sunday, Oct. 28, 2001

RCSC restructures Sun City golf rates

FEE CARD: Annual fee reduced, surcharge increased

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City residents have just under a week left to take advantage of summer rates on the community's golf courses.

While fees for the driving range and golf carts will remain stable, the golf-card fee structure is being overhauled. The change will save some golfers money while costing others more.

"What the change is doing is not giving us a giant increase in income, but we hope that it will attract more golfers back to the courses," said Jerry Swintek, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City. "This should be a good thing for people."

The new fee structure lowers the annual fee card's price from \$690 a year to \$590 a year. Attached to the fee card is a surcharge of \$3 per round of golf. The previous card had a surcharge of just \$1 per round of golf.

The new structure also revamps the no-fee convenience card, which increases this winter from \$875 to \$1,130. The card entitles people to play as many rounds of golf as they would like without having to pay any fees or surcharges whatsoever.

"This card is made for a little more convenience for our avid golfers," Swintek said. "How the new fee structure works out really depends on how much golf people play throughout the year."

A new addition to the fee structure this year is a twilight rate, available to golfers after 3 p.m. The new rate takes the place of the nine-hole rate that RCSC golf courses

offered residents.

According to Steve Ravenkamp, RCSC golf-operations manager, the twilight rate will be dropped from \$19 to \$12 for residents; the rate will drop from \$32 to \$20 for guests.

"The price was dropped a little and we did away with the nine-hole rate," Swintek said. "Now people can come to the course after 3 p.m. and play as many holes as they can get in."

The new fee structure comes on the heels of a particularly harsh year for the golf courses in which weather played havoc during some winter days and construction slowed play during the summer.

The budget for golf, though, seemed to survive its shortfalls this year, as RCSC Treasurer Harold Boudrie worked with other officials to boost revenue elsewhere on the courses, such as in the pro shops and restaurants.

"The new fee structure will only help us a little bit in terms of money," Swintek said. "It might bring in an extra \$200,000 or something like that. But what we're really hoping to do is attract more golfers, which is something we can't plan for in the budget."

Some golfers on the courses Friday morning said they were willing to embrace the new fee structure, and thought it just might work to attract more golfers.

"They did a lot of work on the courses this summer," Gene Hadley said on the North Course. "A lot of people have been complaining throughout the summer, but I think everything they did will be good for the winter. It's a lot more busy come December."

As for the fees, John Olsen said

From A1

he thinks it's a win-win situation for everyone.

"The no-fee cards are a bit more, but it's still a good deal if you play a lot," he said. "For the other card, they are dropping the price \$100. Who could argue with that?"

Some community golf courses still are in the midst of being overseeded to prepare for winter play, but all are expected to be completed by early November.

"The golf courses are staying on track," said Beverly Davis, chairwoman of the RCSC golf committee. "The grass is coming in well."

The RCSC is depending on the winter months to give a

boost to the golf-operations budget, as most play happens between Dec. 26 and April 15, according to golf officials. The winter months typically make up about 65 to 70 percent of all revenue for the year.

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See RCSC fee, A5

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2001

Sun City voters reject Registry

11% TURNOUT:
Unofficial results indicate support of current policies

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City voters chose to keep the community's recreation centers running in the same direction Tuesday, electing candidates with views similar to the current

board.

Of the five members elected to the nine-member Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, all came from the group that supports current board policies and were supported by the Concerned Residents of Sun City group.

Winning three-year seats on the RCSC board are: Norm Dickson with 3,035 votes, Doug "Bud" Hantke with 2,873 and Jim Frederick with 2,872 votes

Taking one-year seats on the RCSC board are: Art Little with 2,828 votes and Gene Zylstra with 2,785 votes.

In the parallel Sun City Home Owners Association election, six candidates were vying for four three-year seats on the board. The HOA winners are: Marge Murphy with 2,565 votes, Jim Corcoran, 2,556; Phyllis Roach, 2,463 and Arne Bidstrup, 2,191.

Little said the board can get back to working for the

community.

"I greatly appreciate the vote," he said. "They made a statement on what they would like to see at the rec centers. This is a statement for the people of Sun City. They want progress. This is the group to do it."

In the more hyped election, 10 candidates were bidding for five seats on the RCSC board. The election was one many officials called the most important in Sun City's history.

With an average voter turnout for the previous three years of just less than 6 percent in community elections, voters came out in force this year with nearly 11 percent casting votes — some 21,859 selections on 4,629 ballots.

Throughout the day, voting remained brisk at all community polling stations, where the voting outcome favored the concerned residents' group by a margin of a little more than 2-1.

Before the results were

announced, Little had said the election would determine if Sun Citians want to move forward or backward.

"This election will determine it," he said. "If people want to keep moving ahead, they know who to vote for."

This year's RCSC election came with one of the fiercest rivalries in the community's 41-year history.

Two groups of candidates faced off against each other;

See 11% turn out, A3

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one running on the grounds of change, the other on the premise of keeping things moving ahead on the same track.

The heated contest raised awareness of the community election, to the point of prompting some long-time residents to come to the polls after absences of several years.

"I just came out to show that Sun City is doing the right thing and that the board should continue to do what they're doing," said Ronald Goldsmith, a seven-year resident who hasn't voted since 1997. "We can either live in a nice community or have one that gets run down to hell."

Doris Wilkenson came out to vote this year after a six-year absence.

"It's been a while," she said. "But at least

this year there was an effort made to tell residents about the election rather than hiding it."

Wilkenson said she was not going to announce who she was voting for, but she admitted she likes the way Sun City is making improvements for its membership.

Election day was not without its hitches, though.

Earl Wille, a Sun City resident for the past six years, was blocked from voting because his property was in his wife's name — not his.

"I don't understand it," he said. "I pay \$130 a year to belong to the rec centers and then they ban me from voting. I voted last year

without a problem, and then this year they tell me I can't. They complain that they don't get a good voter turnout and then they ban people from voting."

RCSC bylaw Article 2, Section B1, states, "non-owners are not entitled to vote." The section further states non-owners can have access to RCSC membership cards, but the privilege of voting will not be extended to them.

The election also had some problems with broken machines, but the entire counting process came under the direction

of the Maricopa County Elections Department. While the votes were being tabulated, observers from both community parties were allowed to watch.

No matter the complaints or rivalry in this year's election, community members are considering it a success.

"We got people to come out and vote," said Nick Salamone, an RCSC candidate backed by the Formula Registry. "The issues brought people out to the voting booths. That's the important thing."

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 876-2526.

'We got people to come out and vote. The issues brought people out to the voting booths. That's the important thing.'

**Nick Salamone
RCSC board candidate**

Elected to the RCSC board of directors:



Dickson



Frederick



Hantke



Little



Zylstra

Elected to HOA board:



Bidstrup



Corcoran



Murphy



Roach

Election results:

STAFF REPORT

The following is a rundown of election results from the Sun City Home Owners Association and Recreation Centers of Sun City elections held Tuesday.

All numbers include early-voting and absentee ballots.

HOA results:

Total votes cast for the six candidates:

Individual HOA candidate results:

- Arne Bidstrup — 2,191 votes
- James Corcoran — 2,556 votes
- Mary Januchowski — 2,022 votes
- Marge Murphy — 2,565 votes
- Phyllis Roach — 2,463 votes

RCSC results:

Total votes cast for the 10 candidates:

Individual RCSC candidate results:

- Lou Abdullah — 1,448 votes
- George Bischof — 1,595 votes
- Norman Dickson — 3,035 votes
- Ken Fetha — 1,368 votes
- James Frederick — 2,872 votes
- Doug Hantke — 2,873 votes
- Art Little — 2,828 votes
- Jack McManamon — 1,563 votes
- Nick Salamone — 1,492 votes
- Gene Zylstra — 2,785 votes

RCSC salutes candidates, ends year in black

ELECTION FOLLOW: Competition encouraged good voter turnout

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors was victorious in Tuesday's elections, but on Thursday, members acknowledged the competition and the good it did for the community.

The group of five candidates supported by the Sun City Formula Registry, which

is critical of the current board, were out-voted nearly 3-1 in the election, but the stir they created brought residents to the polls.

"This is the highest voter turnout we had since we stopped mailing ballots to people's homes," said Bob Briscoe, RCSC vice president. "But the candidates who ran on the grounds of what good they can bring to the board

had many more votes than the ones who ran on the premise of everything the board was doing wrong."

The comments, made at RCSC's regular meeting Thursday, were met with much applause from the 50 or so in attendance.

Briscoe, who is exiting the board at the end of the year, advised future candidates to run on platforms that tell of their strengths rather than others' weaknesses.

"And don't run on

innuendos or false representation," he said.

"But the controversy was good for the community in that it brought a lot of people out to vote," he added. "I encourage people to vote and to run for the board."

Briscoe, along with retiring members Harold Boudrie and Marge Murphy, thanked fellow board members and Sun City residents for their support the last three years.

Anne Stewart, president of the Sun City Formula

Registry and a vocal critic of the board, bowed to the defeat of her group's candidates at the meeting, but encouraged the new directors to work hard to combat some of the practices of the current board. For example, she said she believes the current board is stripping power away from the membership.

The new board members are Norm Dickson, James Frederick and Gene Zylstra. Incumbents Bud Hantke and

See Competition fuels, A7

From A1

Art Little also were re-elected.

Conducting his final board presentation Thursday, Boudrie, treasurer, left his post on a high note.

"Food services have come in higher than expected and the operating end of the community is back in the black and will finish the year out in the black," he said. "This November has seen the highest increase of income in any one month."

Throughout the year, RCSC has struggled to stay out of the red with dwindling food and golf revenues. Increased employee salaries and better benefits have also had an impact on the budget.

Since September, though, community restaurants have been on the rebound and golf has slowly started to show signs of recovery, Boudrie said.

The board approved three motions:

● Matching the first \$500 contributed in the year 2002 to the 401(k) plan of each participant. Just more than 200 full-time employees are eligible to participate in the plan.

● Changing board policy so shotgun starts on the golf courses are not scheduled from Nov. 15 through March 1, unless specifically

approved by the Golf Advisory Committee. Exemptions would be made for mixers, scrambles, semi-annual membership meetings, Guys and Dolls and member-guests.

● Changing the name of the Annual Cart Pass on the golf courses to the Annual Trail Pass. The change requires golfers who purchase the pass to place a sticker on their recreation centers cards. The stickers used to be placed on the golf cars themselves, but that sometimes was abused, as residents would buy one pass and share the car with neighbors.

The motion was contested by resident Nick Salamone, who said the new rule will hurt residents.

"When my kids come to visit, I now can't let them use my cart on the golf courses," he said. "It's my cart and I should be able to let whoever I want use it. It's like giving someone a car and not allowing anyone else to drive it."

The next regular board of directors meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Jan. 31 in Sundial Recreation Center, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard.

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SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

DEC. 19-25, 2001

Voters reject 'pro-membership' candidates

Turnout was heavier than recent years

By Mike Russo
Independent Newspapers

Two divergent factions seems to have stirred the interest in Sun City and produced a larger than normal turnout for this year's Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. and Sun City Home Owners Association board of directors election.

A total of 4,627 ballots, or 10.9 percent of the RCSC membership, were cast in the election. That was nearly as many votes as generated in the two

pervious elections combined.

"This was one of the largest turnouts in recent years," observed Tom Whiston, RCSC director and chairman of the RCSC Elections Committee, prior to announcing the election results Dec. 12 at Lakeview Recreation Center.

Voter turnout in 2000 was 2,449, which was down from 1999's 2,875.

Early voting was popular among Sun Citians with 1,979 ballots being cast prior tot the designated Dec. 11 election day.

Despite inclement weather on Dec. 11, another 2,648 voters turned out.

The race for RCSC seats was quite spirited with the candidates aligning themselves into two factions — "pro-membership" and "pro-board" — with five candidates from each camp seeking a seat on the board,

The former group asserted that the current board has improperly spent RCSC funds, has hired unqualified people

See ■ ELECTION, Page 10



Marge Murphy, left, and Phyllis Roach congratulate each other on their election to the Sun City Home Owners Association board of directors. Also elected to the board were Jim Corcoran and Arne Bidstrup.

OVER

and taken power away from the members.

Apparently, voters did not buy that argument as none of the "pro-membership" candidates won election.

Norm Dickson received the highest vote total, 3,025, and was joined in earning a three-year term on the board by Doug "Bud" Hantke, 2,873, and Jim Frederick, 2,872.

The next two highest vote-getters were elected to one-year board terms. They were Art Little, 2,828, and Gene Zylstra, 2,785.

George Bischof garnered the most votes among the "pro-membership" contingent, 1,595. He was followed by Jack McManamon, 1,563; Nick Salamone, 1,563; Louis Abdullah, 1,448; and Ken Fetha, 1,368.

Directors whose terms are expiring are Bob Briscoe, Marge Murphy, Harold Boudrie, Mr. Hantke and Mr. Little. The latter two men have been serving as appointees and were eligible to seek election to their own terms on the board.

RCSC board President Jerry Swintek expressed his satisfaction with the election's outcome.

"Although a vocal minority seemed to criticize many decisions made by the board this past year, we are grateful that the members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. took the time to educate themselves on the issues and the dedicated service that the board has put forth," he said.

"Everyone needs to remember the board members are volunteers who have chosen to live in Sun City because they believe it is the greatest community," Mr. Swintek continue. "The problems we face as a board do not always have pleasant solutions. The board members, however, are first and foremost members of the RCSC and residents of Sun City, and our decisions, while not always supported by everyone, are made with what we believe is in the best interests of the Recreation Centers."

Being elected to three-year terms on the HOA board were Marge Murphy, 2,565; Jim Corcoran, 2,556; Phyllis Roach, 2,463; and Arne Bidstrup, 2,191. Also competing for seats were Mary Januchowski, 2,022; and Patricia Stolz, 1,655.

HOA terms expiring were those of Fern Evans, Ethel Gross and Bob Kortright, as well as Mrs. Roach.



Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

Elected to the Sun City Recreation Centers, Inc. board of directors were, from left, front row, Doug "Bud" Hantke and Gene Zylstra; back row, Norm Dickson, Jim Frederick and Art Little.

Mr. Kortright, in announcing the HOA winners, thanked all the candidates and praised the efforts of the election volunteers, who worked under the direction of the Maricopa County Elections Department.

"This was a very smooth-running election in the face of possible contention," Mr. Kortright said.

Mrs. Murphy, who went from

serving on the RCSC board to a term on the HOA board, said she was pleased to be elected to the HOA. "I enjoy serving the community," she said.

Mr. Zylstra, a former HOA director, said, "I am excited to have been elected and look forward to contributing to the board."

He plans to work on improving the communication between

the board and RCSC members.

"I am also interested in controlling the budget," he continued. "People seem concerned about balancing the budget. A lot of people are interested on what the Rec Centers spends its money on."

He also said he would like to see a greater emphasis placed on long-range planning.

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2001

RCSC ends year on high note

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It's been a long year for the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

It started out with public backlash for changing the community's two cafes into self-serve eateries. It ended with an election that had the potential to change the face of Sun City for years to come. Add in budget problems, a water pipeline lawsuit and major repairs at the recreation centers — and you've got a year in the life of RCSC board members.

But the board members came

out fine overall. The lawsuit over the Central Arizona Project water pipeline was dismissed. And the election went in favor of the board candidates, not its critics.

"What this elections showed is what people want," said Art Little, an RCSC board member who won re-election earlier this month. "There is a lot that is being done to the community, and people showed that they liked what was being done."

The eatery changeover, a decision that was changed later in the year and returned the cafes back to full service, came in response to

a budget crunch that afflicted RCSC throughout the year.

Golf and food revenues proved to be the hardest hurdles to overcome for the board, but in the end, RCSC finished the year in the black.

"Food service came through," said Harold Boudrie, board treasurer.

What was toughest for the board this year, though, was a lawsuit that threatened to overturn a board decision and pitted some residents against themselves.

The Sun City Taxpayers

Association levied a lawsuit against the RCSC board because of the board's decision to approve construction of a Central Arizona Project water pipeline to irrigate the community's golf courses. With the pipeline coming with an estimated price tag of \$17 million, the Taxpayers insisted the decision to build it was better left to the residents.

Because some RCSC members also are Taxpayers members, some found themselves essentially suing themselves.

See RCSC board, A5



JERRY SWINTEK, RCSC president: "The accomplishments have been great this year. Some of the work on the golf courses has been phenomenal ..."

OVER

From A1

Saying they are elected to represent residents, RCSC board members defended their decision not to bring the pipeline to a community vote. They stuck to their guns, and the Maricopa County Superior Court agreed.

The pipeline's fate now lies in a final decision by the Arizona Corporation Commission, which is expected to approve the project.

Jerry Swintek, RCSC president, said he is proud of all the board's accomplishments in 2001, especially in the hiring of new management.

"The accomplishments have been great this year," he said. "Some of the work on the golf courses has been phenomenal and I think it's due in part to the new management and what they bring to their jobs."

But not everyone has been happy with the work of the board and centers' management, which had RCSC facing yet another challenge during the year — the annual board election.

In what some officials dubbed "the most important election in the community's history," five candidates aligned with board policies were challenged by five candidates critical of board policies.

With five seats up for election, the vote could have altered the direction of the board. That didn't happen, though, as all five candidates supportive of board policies were elected.

Anne Stewart, president of the Sun City Formula Registry, which supported candidates critical of the current board, said next year's election promises to be a fight as well.

"We have all year to campaign and next year will be good for us," she said.

Although the board was criticized by a handful of residents at its monthly meetings, accomplishments have taken center stage. In addition to the victories in the lawsuit and election, much remodeling and upgrading has been done at community recreation centers.

The money for the improvements, such as pool decking, upgraded showers and gazebos at Viewpoint Lake, came from a capital improvement fund that was started by Bob Briscoe, who is retiring from the board at the end of this year.

The fund tacks on a new, one-time fee to new homeowners in the community and frees up money for capital expenditures.

"We want to make this a great place to live for the residents," Swintek said. "I think no matter what happens next year, that will be the priority of the board."

"Even though we had our critics, the election showed that the majority of the residents wants the board to continue on the path we are going," he added.

Continuing on that path, according to Swintek, means adding more improvements to the recreation centers in the years to come.

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 876-2526.

Daily News-Sun • Friday, Feb. 22, 2002

Reduced revenue hurts centers

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The reasons behind an increase in RCSC's annual fees expected to be approved next week weren't a recent phenomenon.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City fell about \$1 million short in revenue compared to expenses in 2001. Most of the problem was blamed on golf, bowling

and food services, each of which have seen increasing costs and a drop in income.

To make up for the deficit, the board is proposing to lower the amount of reserve funds it must keep on hand. The board currently is required to keep a reserve fund of 50 percent of the membership assessment — or about \$2.7 million. Under the proposal, the reserve would drop to \$2.5 million.

The expected fee increase of \$20 per person would diminish the deficit, according to Bud Hantke, RCSC treasurer.

Although the budget has been hurt by golf and bowling shortfalls, the overall budget problems have been blamed on everything from the firing of the former RCSC operations manager to building

See Centers face, A5

From A1

repairs.

The bottom line, though, is RCSC has to raise fees because of a lack of cash flow in just about every area of the community's operation.

"We spend three months out of the year analyzing the budget to see what we can do to make it work," said Jerry Swintek, RCSC president. "You try to eliminate what you can and keep expenses under control. But sometimes, something like this is necessary."

Compared to Sun City's sister communities in the Northwest Valley, annual membership dues are still lower. Sun City West's fee is

\$170 per person and Sun City Grand's is \$600 per unit per year.

"When you look at all Sun City offers its residents, it's just mind boggling what people can get even if we increase the fee to \$150 a year," Swintek said.

For those who cannot afford the fee increase, the Sun City Foundation offers financial aid to low-income households if certain criteria are met. Currently the foundation pays the annual dues for 24 families.

"There is help available to those who need it," said Art Little, RCSC director. "But it is for people who really need the help, not those just bitching about the increase."

The motion to increase annual fees is expected to pass with a majority vote of the board at RCSC's regular meeting Thursday. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in

Sundial Auditorium at Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Business was slow at the Viewpoint Cafe Thursday. The Recreation Centers of Sun City board says it must raise the annual assessment fee because of a projected deficit in the 2002 budget.

RCSC expects to hike annual fee

DEFICIT PREDICTED: Increase still won't get centers out of red in 2002

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

With another year of rising expenses and stagnant revenue, the Recreation Centers of Sun City likely will raise its fees by more than 15 percent next week.

Board members will vote Thursday on a motion to raise the annual assessment to \$150 — reflecting a \$20 increase, which would kick in April 1. The hike is expected to bring in an extra \$600,000 by the end of the year.

"We have a deficit for 2002 and the only way to get out of it is to increase the fee," said Jerry Swintek, RCSC president. "I think it's a fair increase to the residents and something that is needed."

The increase itself, however, is not enough to get RCSC out of the red for the year; an \$800,000 deficit is predicted for 2002.

"It's either make cuts or increase fees," Swintek said. "This year we have to do both. Some of the less important projects are being put on hold to get us as close to a balanced budget as we can."

News of the potential membership assessment fee increase was met with harsh words from parts of the community.

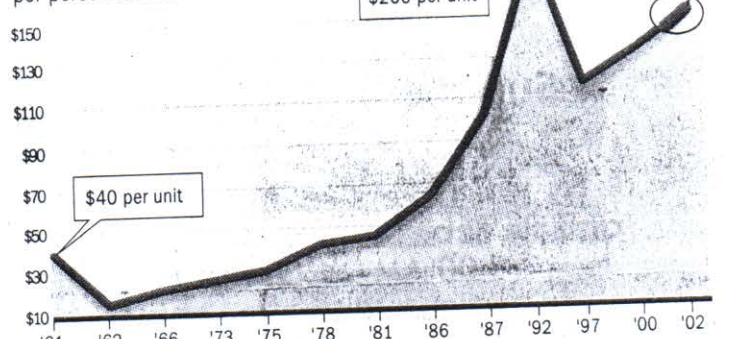
"The motion to increase the fees is going to be passed," said Art Little, RCSC director. "The vote is unanimous, but not unanimous. We don't have any board members voting against it, but we do have some abstaining from the vote."

Who exactly is abstaining is a mystery, as board members have declined to give details on how they are voting, save for Director Gene Zylstra, who said he is going

See RCSC fee, A5

Annual Assessment Fees

per person unless noted



SOURCE:

CHARLES WADE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

From A1

to vote for the increase.

"I am not aware of who is voting against it or abstaining from the vote," Zylstra said. "I am voting for it because it is something that we really need."

Little also will vote for the increase, and Swintek said he would vote for it as well if it came to a tie. As president, Swintek only votes in a tie-breaking situation.

"The increase is going to pass," Swintek said. "It is something that is needed and there are enough realists on the board who understand that there is no other choice than to increase the rates."

The last time Sun City's membership assessment fee was increased was Jan. 1, 2000, when the rate went from \$115 to \$130.

At the RCSC regular meeting in which the 2000 increase was approved, residents complained for nearly an hour about the hike,

citing overpaid management, shoddy workmanship, poor housekeeping and wasteful and extravagant entertainment costs.

Some of those same complaints continue today.

"I think if they looked at their management and hired qualified people, then they wouldn't be in the budget situation they are in now," said Anne Stewart, founder of the Sun City Formula Registry and a critic of the RCSC board. "On the golf courses and in the rec centers there is money being spent on things that are not needed."

The Formula Registry has been a frequent opponent to board action and unsuccessfully supported candidates in last year's election.

"The problem is not that they need more money. It is that they have bad management," Stewart said. "The board is gouging the membership by listening to the current management."

The large-scale improvements made to the recreation

centers in the past year have come from money in RCSC's capital preservation fund, which is financed through a one-time fee assessed to new homeowners.

The capital fund provides money to large-scale projects such as the recently completed upgrades to Lakeview Recreation Center where a pool deck was installed and a face-lift was given to the restaurant.

The argument about major improvements is not convincing Stewart, though, who said poor management decisions have caused the budget to skyrocket out of control in the past year or so. Stewart points to the community's golf courses as an example.

"Our golf courses look bad because of our golf superintendent's lack of expertise," Stewart said. "It's not because of the weather, otherwise all area golf courses would look bad, which they don't."

Steve Ravenkamp, RCSC's golf-operations manager, said

the golf courses are suffering from the budget constraints; golf operations staff have to use old equipment and provide less treatment on the grasses than other courses.

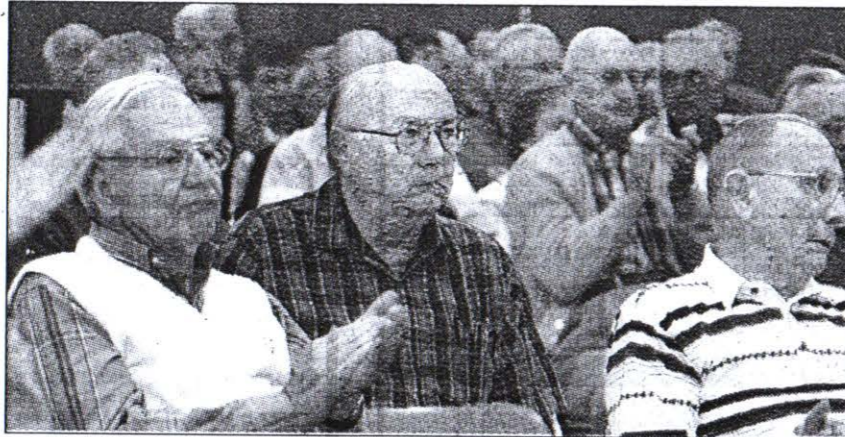
Hantke said revenue shortfalls in golf, bowling and food services are to blame for the budget crunch.

The downward spiraling RCSC budget does not come as a surprise to board members, and the situation was reported to the membership at every meeting last year.

Former RCSC Treasurer Harold Boudrie repeatedly explained the budget problems during the meetings, even hinting during a June meeting that a fee increase was inevitable. At that meeting, Boudrie said a \$10 increase probably would be needed to meet expenses, but a higher increase would be nice to allow for some flexibility in the budget.

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It's official: Assessment fees go up in Sun City



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Former recreations centers board members, from left, Art Williams, George Bischof and Ray Danford, show their appreciation Thursday to a resident saying fees need to be increased to keep the Sun City lifestyle vibrant and property values up.

\$20 MORE A YEAR: Money will be used to offset budget deficit

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The annual assessment fees in Sun City will increase \$20 April 1, in an effort to balance a budget that has been running a deficit.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors voted Thursday morning on a motion to raise the annual assessment to \$150 — reflecting the \$20 increase. The motion was approved by all seven board members at the meeting. The move is expected to bring in an extra \$600,000 by the end of the year.

“Speaking on behalf of the entire board,

we pledge to examine the operation expenses closely with this increase,” board Treasurer Bud Hantke told the membership before public comment was taken. “The money is used for our properties, which are aging and require attention. And that attention is required now.”

Although the motion was fully supported by the board, several residents who spoke on the issue didn't agree with the decision. More than 100 people attended Thursday's meeting and several dozen spoke for and against the increase.

“We want to go on the record that this raise is a mistake,” said Anne Stewart, founder of the Sun City Formula Registry, an organization critical of the current board. “The operations management and golf management is to blame for the budget

See Fee hike, A4

From A1

situation right now, and we are dissatisfied with the board for not taking action against (Steve) Ravenkamp before his resignation.”

Ravenkamp was golf operations manager for RCSC but resigned from the post Monday after taking a job elsewhere. Ravenkamp has come under fire from some community members who allege he was responsible for a skyrocketing budget and poor golf course management.

Nick Salamone, who has been vocal opponent of some board decisions, said he didn't have a problem with the fee increase, but would prefer if RCSC's

budget was more detailed than it is currently.

“I don't care about the increase,” he said. “I just want (the board) to tell me where the money is going.”

The fee increase — some 15 percent — marks the first since Jan. 1, 2000, and was necessary because of a loss in revenue with golf, bowling and food operations, which have seen sharp increases in spending but little headway in income during the past year.

Most of the people who supported the increase said it is a deal to pay \$150 per person, per year, for all the amenities offered in Sun City. Even with the increase, Sun City has

cheaper annual fees than its Del Webb sister communities in the Northwest Valley. Sun City West charges \$170 per person, per year, while Sun City Grand charges \$600 per housing unit per year.

Before the vote was taken on the fee increase, RCSC President Jerry Swintek said residents must understand that the increase would not go to large projects in the community, nor would it go to golf operations. He said golf is self-supporting, while large renovation projects such as the upgrade to the Lakeview Recreation Center pool receives funding from the Capital Improvement Fund, supported by a one-time \$700 fee from new

property owners.

The money generated from the fee increase will be used to offset a budget deficit incurred last year.

Board members who voted in favor of the increase are Hantke, Swintek, Beverly Davis, Norm Dickson, James Frederick, Art Little and Gene Zylstra. Tom Whiston and Dorothy Hirtzel were not in attendance at the meeting because of medical issues.

Because the first motion passed, board members also unanimously passed the second motion on the agenda, to lower the amount in the reserve fund to either 50 percent of the annual property assessment or \$2.5 million —

whichever is less.

RCSC was required to keep at least \$2.5 million in reserves — or 50 percent of the annual property assessment — but the increased assessment fee would make that number jump to \$2.7 million.

With passage of the second motion, the RCSC reserve fund remains at \$2.5 million — or 48 percent of the annual property assessment.

Another issue discussed at the board meeting Thursday was Ravenkamp's resignation. When Swintek announced the resignation, several audience members applauded.

Swintek did not go into detail about the

resignation, but said Chuck Manning, supervisor of the North and South golf courses, is the interim golf operations manager.

Replacing Ravenkamp is expected to take several months, with a nationwide search starting this weekend, Swintek said.

Bob Briscoe, former RCSC president, said at the meeting that a key point in Ravenkamp's replacement is determining if that person can work with Earl Feirabend, centers operations manager.

“The two really have to work together to make RCSC run smoothly and efficiently,” he said.

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Sun City Rec Centers boosts annual fee

Increase from \$130 to \$150 per person takes effect April 1

By Mike Russo
Independent Newspapers

Stagnating revenues and increased costs to maintain aging facilities led the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. board of directors to last week approve a 15.38 percent increase in the annual membership assessment fee.

The fee will rise from \$130 per person to \$150 effective April 1. It is the first annual fee increase since Jan. 1, 2000. The fee rose from \$115 to \$130 at

that time.

The increase was approved by a 6-0 vote of the board with directors Dorothy Hirtzel and Tom Whiston absent.

"This action will increase revenues by approximately \$900,000," explained Bud Hantke, board treasurer. "We feel it is necessary because we are not generating sufficient revenues.

"Our properties are aging and require our attention and require it now," he continued.

"I pledge that expenditures will be closely monitored and

capital expenditures will be closely examined," Mr. Hantke said.

A sizable crowd attended the board meeting with 18 residents voicing their opinion on the fee hike, the majority of whom expressed support for the action.

"We bought into this lifestyle knowing there would be a cost associated. Someone has got to pay for this," Jerry Cobb said.

"The increase is needed to properly maintain the facilities. It amounts to only 5.5 cents per day," he added.

Roxanne Laslo, a relative newcomer to Sun City, said, "The facilities and service provided for my lifestyle are fabulous."

Sun City fees are a bargain, she said, citing the fees she used to pay to belong to a community pool and fitness center while living in St. Louis.

She said since the annual fee was \$40 in the late 1960s, with the cost of living, the fee today should be at least \$185 to be comparable.

Ms. Laslo characterized the

\$150 fee as "a true bargain."

Helen Thielman, a Sun City resident since 1978, remarked, "Sun City has so many amenities for our usage. When we purchased a home we realized we purchased equity in all the amenities.

"I firmly believe an increase in rec center dues is justifiable," she said.

She encouraged the board to "maintain the value of our cen-

ters which reflects on the values of our homes."

Bob Van Dyke, president of the Sun City Tennis Association, expressed his approval for the fee hike to maintain the amenities in Sun City.

"The board should be allowed the funds to keep amenities up so our property values (remain high)," Mr. Van Dyke said.

Former RCSC director Doris Dietz, praised the board members for their efforts.

"I strongly favor this increase because I know it is costly to maintain these facilities," she said, adding she felt the fee increase should be slightly higher.

"My wife and I are very active in Sun City and we use only about 10 percent of the facilities and we don't care about the other 90 percent. My view of Sun City is totally different than someone else's but the board has to look out for everyone," said Bill Shipley, in support of the board's action.

Anne Stewart, one of several residents who spoke in opposition to the move, said, "We oppose the RCSC fee increase. The raise is a mistake.

"We believe the general manager and golf manager are responsible for the deficits," she added.

She commented, "The board has a fiduciary responsibility to get the best people to keep fees down."

Mrs. Stewart requested the replacement of general manager Earl Feierabend.

Harvey Koons, who has lived in Sun City for nearly 24 years, said, "The fee increase should have been discussed at the general membership meeting prior to the vote on the motion."

He said the board should economize before raising fees.

That opinion was shared by Arthur Neault, who said, "The board should live within its budget."

He also requested the fee increase take effect Jan. 1, 2003.

Ralph Schmidt said the board could increase revenues by allowing churches and political groups to rent RCSC facilities.

For those questioning the rationale behind the fee jump, Peggy Corrado suggested those people attend the board's study sessions, like she and her hus-

band, to get more information about pressing issues.

Mr. Hantke said RCSC revenues fell approximately \$500,000 below budget for 2001. The revenue shortfall was coupled with an excess of expenditures of \$500,000.

With the revenue shortfall and overage in expenditures, RCSC missed its bottom line by slightly more than \$1 million, according to Mr. Hantke.

The increased annual fee will be coupled with a reduction in the amount of reserve cash the board needs to keep on hand. The board approved an amendment to its policy to accomplish that. The vote was 6-0.

The change will allow the RCSC to maintain a reserve of 50 percent of the assessment or \$2.5 million, whichever is less. Previously, the board was required to maintain a reserve equal to 50 percent of the membership assessment. That amounted to about \$2.7 million, according to Mr. Hantke.

"The combination of the assessment increase and the reduced reserve would give us about \$1.1 million," Mr. Hantke said.

SUN CITY
RECREATION CENTERS OF
VF

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, May 1, 2002

'We have people breaking the rules all over the place. It is going to stop.'

Jim Frederick, RCSC director

RCSC targets breaches

VIOLATIONS: Board pursues golf-car violators, delinquent assessments

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

If rules were made to be broken, nobody told the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

The RCSC board of directors is actively pursuing rule violators in the community, with its two top priorities centering on illegal golf-car use on community courses and residents with delinquent annual assessments.

An example of the latter was resolved late last week when Joseph and Karen Muller paid their back dues, which totaled in excess of \$2,900, according to RCSC Director Art Little.

"They came up to the plate and paid their back dues in full," Little said. "But this is just the beginning of how we are going to actively go after the few other residents who are considerably behind in their annual fees."

In March, a Superior Court judge ruled the Mullers were violating the community's deed restrictions when they were parking their recreational vehicle on their property for extended periods. Following the ruling, the Mullers agreed to move the RV from their property in the 10500 block of Caron Drive, and also agreed to pay \$1,000 of the Sun City Home Owners Association's legal fees. On Friday, they paid their back assessments as well.

Attempts to contact the Mullers were unsuccessful Tuesday.

Although the issues with the Mullers have been resolved, Little said the RCSC is now going after the 12 to 15 residents — out of the community's 42,000 — who are excessively delinquent in their assessments.

"It's not a whole lot, and we are not sure exactly how much is owed in total, but we will be investigating those who owe the money," he said. "We will also work in conjunction with the Sun City Foundation to find out if these people owing the money are hardship cases, in which case we will work with them and offer relief."

Little said there might be another reason the RCSC's data show some residents being delinquent in paying their assessments.

"They might not even be living anymore," he said. "That is something the investigation will find out."

The RCSC is planning on working with the Sun City Home Owners Association on the issue, as many of the people owing back assessments to the RCSC also have files with the HOA.

The golf problems the RCSC is cracking down on stem from residents using privately owned golf cars on the courses without a proper trail pass.

For many years, Sun City golfers were required to purchase a trail pass if they wanted to use their golf cars on community courses. When they purchased a trail pass, golfers received a sticker that showed their cars were legal on the courses.

Last year, former Sun City golf-operations Manager Steve Ravenkamp stopped the practice of requiring the cars to have stickers on them and instead required the members to affix the stickers to their recreation cards.

"We have no idea why he did this, but we are making golfers put the stickers back on their cars," said RCSC Director Jim Frederick. "It always worked and worked well in the past, so we have no idea why it was stopped."

Starting May 15, all golfers using their own golf cars on community courses will be required to have the stickers on their vehicles.

"There have been a lot of violations on the courses, and we are going to crack down on them," Frederick said. "It is starting with the stickers, but we are going to enforce the other rules as well."

Other rules being broken, he said, include residents golfing after 5 p.m. and failing to sign in when using the courses.

"We have people breaking the rules all over the place," he said. "It is going to stop."

A courtesy crew has been assigned to all Sun City golf courses to enforce the trail-pass sticker rule. Residents without a sticker who need one can call 876-3000.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

Group seeks recall of RCSC board

Consideration of communication tower at heart of controversy

JUNE 12-18, 2002

Independent Newspapers

All nine members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. Board of Directors are targets of a recall attempt by a group of disgruntled residents, led by Anne Randall Stewart.

Mrs. Stewart, who represents the Sun City Formula Registration, delivered a letter to the board last week informing them of her group's intent to

recall President Jerry Swintek and board members Beverly Davis, Bud Hantke, Tom Whiston, Art Little, Dorothy Hirtzel, Gene Zylstra, Jim Frederick and Norman Dickson.

The group wants to recall the directors to prevent them from lifting the ban on communication towers on RCSC property.

AT&T has approached the board about the possibility of installing a communication tower on Willowcreek Golf

Course, which Mrs. Stewart opposes.

"They (the board) want to put communications towers in back yards of properties that will reduce their property values," Mrs. Stewart contends. "For \$12,000 a year they will degrade our property yet they spent a million and half dollars to move the spas at Sundial without recommendations of Engineering Committee.

Mrs. Stewart believes AT&T

has offered to pay a fee of \$1,000 per month to place a tower on the golf course.

"The board is changing the whole concept of the city," she continued.

Mr. Swintek said no fee has been negotiated with AT&T, but the Rec Centers receives a comparable fee from Qwest, \$974 monthly, for the tower at Marinette Recreation Center.

He said the recall attempt is premature, adding that a lot of

misinformation is being disseminated

"She is starting a recall before a vote has even been taken," he said. "We have not voted to do this. We have just posted it to get feedback from the residents.

"We discussed it during study session of May 6," Mr. Swintek continued. "Should we allow AT&T to come in and look at

See ■ **RECALL**, Page 3

the site to see if it would be something they would be interested in?"

Before the board could consider entering into a contract with AT&T, it would first have to repeal a board policy banning future communication towers on RCSC property, according to Mr. Swintek.

"At this point there is nothing other than AT&T saying they would be interested," he said.

"You can't ask the question about malfeasance or misfeasance until we vote to change the policy," Mr. Swintek added.

"We have not voted on the issue yet," reiterated Mr. Little. "She is trying to recall us for a posting.

"The bottom line is she is trying to recall the board for asking the opinion of the public on a specific issue," Mr. Little added. "We haven't decided the tower issue yet."

RCSC Board Policy No. 5 details the proper procedure for attempting a recall, including:

- Recall petitions must contain valid signatures of 10 percent of the membership as of the

previous July 1.

- A referendum petition must set forth the existing policy or regulation that is being challenged in clear and precise language that will allow the challenge to be determined by a yes or no vote.

- Before an initiative petition is filed, the party or parties intending to circulate and file such a petition, will submit the proposal (in the language that the initiative will contain) to the RCSC Board of Directors. The board will have 60 days from the date of submission to accept or reject the proposal. If the proposal is rejected, the petition may then be filed with the secretary of the board.

- If an initiative or referendum is filed with the secretary, the secretary will have 30 days to determine and announce whether the required number of signatures have been obtained.

Mrs. Stewart said 4,318 valid signatures will be required, based upon information she received from the Rec Centers.

"We are going for 5,000, or more," she said. We are printing

enough petitions to get 5,000 signatures."

In the letter to the board, Mrs. Stewart and Art Heil are identified as recall petition circulators.

Mrs. Stewart said a door-to-door campaign was scheduled to start this week to obtain signatures if the board accepted her request for a petition. However, at press time the RCSC received a recommendation from its attorneys that the request for a recall petition be denied.

James Hinton, representing the firm of Ridenhour, Hinton, Harper and Kelhoffer, wrote: "We do not believe that a petition number should be issued Mrs. Stewart at this time. This is because her petition text is clearly incorrect and obviously misleading.

"Mrs. Stewart cannot be issued a petition number when her petition seeks to recall directors for an action that has not yet occurred and may not occur," he continued.

"In summary, we do not believe that the association (RCSC) is required to issue a recall petition number to Mrs.

Stewart since the petition text complains about an act that has not yet occurred, and, for one or more of the directors, may not occur, and, is thus, clearly untrue and incorrect," Mr. Hinton added.

Mrs. Stewart expected to have her request rejected and earlier in the week pledged to "proceed with the recall with or without their permission. The membership has a right to stop their (board's) lifting of the ban on communication towers."

Recall efforts are nothing new for the Recreation Centers.

Sun City's last recall was in 1994 when board President Art Williams and Vice President Max Domino were removed from office.

An attempt was launched in December 1998 by Concerned Citizens of Sun City, led by John Strasheim, to recall board President Dick Ohnstad. The group accused Mr. Ohnstad of malfeasance for allowing annual golf rates to be raised from \$640 to \$825.

That attempt was aborted in February 1999.

Cellular pole battle continues in Sun City

RECALL: RCSC board rejects petitions

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City attorney said a petition to recall RCSC board members is invalid because it is incorrect and misleading.

At the center of the recall is a policy change that could allow the board to approve monopoles, communications towers used in the transmission of cellular phone calls.

Sun Citian Anne Stewart, director of the Sun City Formula Registry, said she fears the board will routinely allow the towers to be built.

Last month, the RCSC board approved a motion to post a policy change, which is to be voted on at the June 28 meeting, that could allow the construction of the towers in Sun City.

That's when Stewart announced her recall effort.

However, the recall petitions have been rejected by the RCSC board because, RCSC officials said, they "were not filled out correctly."

The board has issued a statement from its attorney stating that Stewart's wording on the petition is incorrect, therefore RCSC would not grant her a recall petition number — required under RCSC Board Policy No. 5.

"We do not believe that a petition number should be issued to Ms. Stewart at this time," the statement reads. "This is because her petition text is clearly incorrect and obviously misleading. The beginning of the second sentence of the petition text states: 'We hereby recall the following directors for voting to lift the ban ...' That statement, at this time, is untrue. No one on the board has voted to lift the ban on communication towers on Rec Center property. In fact, the vote on that matter is not scheduled to take place until June 27, 2002."

Stewart said that even if the petitions do not receive the required number, she is going to go ahead with it to try to influence the board from making any contracts with cellular companies.

The towers, which could be built as high as 120 feet under Maricopa County Department of Planning and Zoning regulations, could potentially be home to wireless phone companies such as AT&T, Verizon, Sprint or a

plethora of others. The towers would boost cellular signals in the Northwest Valley and mean some extra cash for RCSC, which would charge rent on where the towers are placed.

There is already such a monopole communication tower on RCSC land — at Marinette Recreation Center on Union Hills Drive — that was built in 1997 without the approval of the residents or the board of directors, according to RCSC President Jerry Swintek. The decision was made by the RCSC president at the time.

The structure was not well received by the community, according to Swintek, when it was constructed, which prompted the RCSC board to approve a policy in August 1997 that banned all future communication towers on RCSC land.

That policy, however, is up for review by the board. Under the posting, the banning policy is to be removed and replaced with the sentence: "Construction of communication towers on RCSC properties must be approved by the Board of Directors."

Swintek acknowledged that there was quite a bit of controversy over the tower at Marinette, but assured residents that it would be removed when the 10-year contract for the pole expires in 2007. The tower brings in \$896 a month to RCSC.

Nevertheless, Swintek also confirmed that AT&T has expressed interest in constructing a monopole communication tower on Willow Creek Golf Course. Swintek said, if approved by the board and agreed on by AT&T, the tower has the potential to house several mobile communication antennas. The amount of money that could be generated from the potential tower is not known at this time, Swintek said, but could bring in a hefty sum for RCSC each month with the possibility of some kind of agreement with the cellular providers.

"Who knows, maybe if AT&T comes in here, we could get free cell phones or some kind of central

communications for the rec centers," Swintek said. "But right now no decision has been made yet. We are posting the policy change to get resident reaction to it. It will also give us the opportunity to open up talks with communication providers if they want to come in here."

Stewart who said she has heard from more than 200 people who are against the towers, which she said should be enough for the board to stop any further action on the motion. It hasn't though.

Several residents bordering Willow Creek confirmed to the Daily News-Sun that they were against the erection of the communication towers, but each refused to have their names used.

One resident who does not live near the golf course but is against the tower, Jon Bright, said although the tower has not been approved by the board, he said he assumes it will pass in spite of negative public reaction.

"There is a long history of the board not listening to the residents," he said. "Do think it's just coincidence that the board is waiting until the winter residents are gone to push something like this? I don't think so. We don't have a voice anymore — that became obvious with the pipeline."

RCSC has been battling in the courts and the Arizona Corporation Commission over a proposed Central Arizona Project water pipeline proposed in the community. The board approved the construction of the pipe more than a year ago, without holding a membership vote on the issue. The proposed pipeline is expected to cost Sun City residents several million dollars, which will be charges to their water bills as an increase of several dollars a month.

RCSC repeatedly refused to allow a membership vote on the issue on the grounds that the nine-member board was elected to make decisions for the community.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.



JERRY SWINTEK, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City: "Nothing is done yet. There is a long way to go before anything becomes a done deal. We have to agree to it, and AT&T has to agree to it before it gets built."

AT&T surveys potential for monopole

RCSC: Company checks out golf-course site for communications tower

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

AT&T has applied for a permit to build a communications tower on Willowcreek Golf Course, but that doesn't mean it's a done deal, community officials said.

The Maricopa County Department of Planning and Zoning confirmed AT&T applied for a permit to construct a tower on

the Recreation Centers of Sun City land at 10505 W. Union Hills Drive. The permit process takes about seven months to complete, and the final decision depends on RCSC.

"There is absolutely no written agreement with anyone at this time," said Earl Feierabend, RCSC's director of centers operations. "The only thing that has been done is the land has been surveyed to make sure there is sufficient room for such a structure."

If approved and built, RCSC would receive about \$1,000 a month from AT&T for the monopole, Feierabend said, and could lead to having a central communications post for RCSC. The

pole would be placed on Willowcreek Golf Course behind the maintenance shed.

AT&T applied for the permit, Feierabend said, because of the time it takes to get one approved.

Attempts to contact AT&T were unsuccessful Wednesday.

Under the county's permitting rules for monopole communication tower construction, all residents living within 300 feet of the structure are notified in writing from the county about the proposal, and a public hearing is scheduled to determine whether the construction permit should be granted.

A communications monopole is a pole-like structure that

houses antennas to be used for cellular phones. The communication towers are usually made out of metal or fiberglass.

Feierabend said the site picked for the monopole is several hundred yards from any houses, but he said he was not sure exact distances from homes or the number of residents who will receive written notification.

There are two communication towers in the Sun Cities vicinity; one at Marinette Recreation Center and another in Youngtown, south of Grand Avenue.

Last month, the RCSC board unanimously approved posting a policy change that would allow communications towers

on RCSC land if approved by the board. A vote on the motion is scheduled for June 27.

The decision to post the change has prompted the Sun City Registry, an anonymous group that has been critical of RCSC's recent policies, to request a recall petition for each of the board members.

RCSC has denied the recall petition on the grounds its purpose is unclear and the policy change has yet to take place.

Feierabend said even if the communication tower's construction is approved by the board, there are stipulations, designed to protect residents.

See RCSC directors, A5

From A1

"If everything gets approved and they do not cater to our agreement, then the pole won't go up," Feierabend said. "We want it between 50 and 65 feet tall with a lot of other regulations. For the amount of money it will bring in, there is no reason that we will be forced to agree to something that is not acceptable on our terms."

Moreover, Feierabend said a monopole at Marinette Recreation Center will be coming down in five years, once the

contract with Qwest expires, and there will be no other poles erected in Sun City.

"This is the only place where any communications company wants to build," he said. "There will not be any more. We think it's a good idea because it allows for better communication systems in Sun City and it does bring in some extra money."

Jerry Swintek, RCSC president, said, "Nothing is done yet. There is a long way to go before anything becomes a done deal. We have to agree to it, and AT&T has to agree to it before it gets built.

Absolutely nothing is carved in stone yet."

Arne Bidstrup, a Sun City Home Owners Association director who is on HOA's environmental committee, said although he understands some people might be leery of having such a structure put up in Sun City, he has received assurances only one pole would be erected.

"With just one pole, we don't have a problem with it," he said. "If there was a bunch of them planned, then it would cause us some concern."

Anne Stewart, director of

the Sun City Formula Registry, said she knows several hundred residents who have said they are against the monopole construction. RCSC, however, reports that other than from Stewart, no recorded complaints have been registered.

The monopole issue will be discussed at the RCSC formal study session scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday in Lakeview Recreation Center, Thunderbird and Del Webb boulevards.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

Funding joint lobbyist raises members' eyebrows

RCSC: Board approves \$17,500 seed money for lobbying group

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Girded for battle over communication towers on a golf course, the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors instead faced questions Monday morning about funding a lobbyist.

The communication towers discussion took place later in the meeting, but the lobbyist question seemed to draw more interest.

The motion allocating \$17,500 as seed money to form an alliance with Sun City and Sun City West organizations to deal with retirement-community issues in the state Legislature faced harsh backlash from some of the 50 or so residents attending the RCSC formal study session. The motion faced some questions from board members as well.

"This money would go to hire a lobbyist to work for the best interests of all Arizona retirement communities," said RCSC President

Jerry Swintek. "We need to support an organization like this to give a heads-up on things that might come our way from the Legislature."

Last week, the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association approved similar measures for a lobbyist, each contributing \$5,000 to the cause. The Recreation Centers of Sun City West will decide later this month whether to approve its \$17,500 in seed money.

Swintek said because the joint organization will work for all retirement communities throughout the state, funding will be self-generated in the future. He said, however, initial funding from the community organizations is needed to start the project before other retirement communities will sign on.

"We asked retirement communities in the past to do something like this, and they were interested, but wanted to sign on to an established organization," Swintek said.

RCSC Treasurer Bud Hantke opposed the spending at this time, saying more research needs to be done before joining the group.

"We do need a voice at the Legislature, but the way it's been working hasn't been bad," he said. "I think more work needs to be done first in terms of contacting the other retirement communities before RCSC funds \$17,000 for this project. It is a lot of money, and I don't know what we will get from it."

Hantke's concerns, echoed by a handful of residents who spoke against spending the money before more research is done, prompted board member Norm Dickson to add a line to the motion that allows for the funds to be allocated to the organization contingent on "review and approval by RCSC for structure and purpose."

With the added wording, the motion passed the board.

Because the money for the new organization is not budgeted, if it receives final approval, it will come from unallocated money within the RCSC budget, according to Swintek.

The second motion to pass the

board Monday came with less debate. The motion updates the board policy on allowing alcoholic beverages on RCSC properties. The previous board policy, Dickson said, was confusing. The new policy states that alcohol is allowed on RCSC properties, but the sale of such beverages is prohibited.

The third motion discussed was adding a list of committee definitions to RCSC board policies. The motion is designed to have a set list of committees with their duties in the board policies, according to Art Little, who introduced the motion. The issue goes to a board vote June 27.

The final item on Monday's agenda — the one the board expected to generate the most public comment — was the board's posting to change a policy that could open the way to having communication towers erected on RCSC land. The policy changes the ban on such towers and allows them if the board approves their construction. The item goes to a vote later this month.

A few residents spoke against the motion, saying the poles could

damage property values in the area.

Von Guthery, a homeowner near Willow Creek Golf Course on Union Hills Drive — a site on which AT&T has expressed interest in locating a tower — said he is concerned such a communication tower will be an eyesore.

"It will hurt the value of my home," he said. "They can camouflage it any way they want, but it is still going to hurt the value."

Anne Stewart, director of the Sun City Formula Registry, a group working to recall all the board members for the possible policy change, was not at Monday's meeting.

The board will vote June 27 on the the policy change to allow communication towers on RCSC land. If the motion is approved, RCSC will be able to open talks with communication companies about constructing such towers in Sun City.

The board will meet at 9 a.m. June 27 at Sundial Recreation Center, Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue in Sun City, for its regular monthly meeting. Members are invited.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

RCSC board faces monopole backlash

FORMULA REGISTRY:
Recall petition for
entire board circulates

STAFF REPORT

The Recreation Centers of Sun City is expecting to have its fireworks display early this year.

The RCSC board of directors plans to approve provisions to allow a monopole communications tower in the community at its meeting this week.

When the motion was posted a month ago to gauge resident reaction, Anne Stewart of the Sun City Formula Registry started a recall petition for all nine board members.

The petition is aimed at gaining enough signatures to get the board members removed because of the communication-tower issue.

The board has confirmed it will vote in favor of changing a policy that banned communication towers on RCSC land for the last four years. The change will allow such towers to be erected on RCSC land with board approval.

Communication towers range from 50 to 150 feet tall and are used

**RCSCW
board votes
to shun con-
troversy, A3**

See RCSC board, A7

for wireless communications. A site on which AT&T has expressed interest in building such a tower is at the Willowcreek Golf Course. The tower, if constructed, will generate more than \$1,000 a month for the RCSC.

During the last several board meetings, many residents have been pointed in their criticism of the board. Last month, one resident was removed from the meeting by the Sun City Posse for his comments, while another resident was warned if he didn't mute his comments, he would be removed as well.

The communication-tower issue is one of the most volatile subjects scheduled for discussion and vote at Thursday's meeting, but other motions are on the agenda as well.

Director Dorothy Hirtzel is scheduled to introduce a motion to update the wording of a board policy about alcohol consumption on RCSC property. The amended board-policy wording is: "No unlicensed sale of intoxicating beverages is permitted on any RCSC properties. A 'Special Events License' can be obtained from the State of Arizona."

The wording is aimed at clearing up confusion in the policy, which did not make it clear that consumption of alcohol is permitted, but selling it is banned.

Director Jim Frederick is scheduled to move to add definitions of all RCSC committees to the board policies. The motion is designed to have a running list of duties for each committee included with the overall RCSC board policies.

The RCSC regular monthly meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday in the Sundial Auditorium at Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue. Members wishing to speak on any agenda item must sign up prior to the meeting at a table set up at the back of the auditorium.

Recreation Board policy changed

Constructing communication tower can now be considered

By Mike Russo
Independent Newspapers

A change to Board Policy No. 11 was unanimously approved last week by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Board of Directors paving the way for the board to consider allowing a communications tower to be erected on RCSC property.

Section 16 of the policy had imposed a ban on the construction of communications tower

on RCSC property.

That stipulation was passed on Aug. 28, 1997, after residents were angered by the construction of a monopole at Marinette Recreation Center.

AT&T Wireless has approached the board about the possibility of installing a communication tower on Willowcreek Golf Course.

Should the board approve a pact with AT&T, the Rec Centers would receive about

\$1,000 monthly, according to Jerry Swintek, board president.

Amending the board policy does not necessarily mean the tower will be built, according to board member Dorothy Hirtzel.

"Changing the wording is all we are doing," she said.

Should a tower be built, it could "provide a benefit for Sun City," Mrs. Hirtzel noted.

"We are looking into it," said Director Norm Dickson. "That is all we are doing."

Mr. Dickson mentioned the tower has been an emotional issue. "There has been a lot of misinformation and disinformation," he said. This is simply to generate discussion.

Board Treasurer Bud Hantke dispelled the rumor that the board has already signed a contract with AT&T Wireless.

He mentioned that AT&T has applied to Maricopa County for a permit of erect a tower but the RCSC board has yet to grant

approval.

"That's the way they choose to do business," Mr. Hantke said, emphasizing that the Rec board is not obligated to grant permission for the tower.

Dick Ohnstad, a former director, told the board he supported their action.

Resident Earl Snyder recommended the board to do what it

feels is best regarding the tower.

"The tower will not decrease property value," he said. He noted that he lives in the vicinity of the tower at Marinette Recreation Center and his property value has not diminished. He also suggested renewing the contract for the tower at Marinette.

"It is a good revenue source," he said.

The only dissenting opinion was expressed by Anne Stewart.

With the ban on communication towers now lifted, she plans to continue with her plans to recall all nine board members.

"We believe the board is not listening to the membership," she said.

Mrs. Stewart said she disagrees with the RCSC attorney's opinion that her recall petition request should not be granted.

James Hinton, representing the firm of Ridenhour, Hinton,

Harper and Kelhoffer, recommended the board reject Mrs. Stewart's request for a recall petition.

"We do not believe that a petition number should be issued Mrs. Stewart at this time. This is because her petition text is clearly incorrect and obviously misleading," Mr. Hinton opined.

Mrs. Stewart said she also disagrees that a recall cannot be conducted without the board granting permission.

She contends the RCSC's Article of Incorporation allows for a recall if 10 percent of the membership roster, as of the previous July 1, signs a petition.

Mrs. Stewart said 4,318 valid signatures will be required, based upon information she received from the Recreation Centers.

RCSC has group's number

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

An anonymous community group now has the number it needs to move forward with its effort to recall the entire Recreation Centers of Sun City board.

More than a month ago, the Sun City Formula Registry, headed by Anne Stewart, started a recall petition against all nine members of the RCSC board of directors. At issue was the board's decision to reverse a policy that banned all future communication towers on RCSC land. The towers, or monopoles, are structures as tall as 120 feet that accommodate cellular communication services for various wireless companies.

"She wants to go ahead with her recall, so we'll let her," said RCSC President Jerry Swintek. "We issued her a recall number and are waiting to see how many people she can round up to get the board removed from power."

Under RCSC Board Policy No. 5, all recall petitions must get an assigned number from RCSC to be valid. RCSC refused to give Stewart the number until the board officially voted on the issue at the end of June.

With recall number in hand, the Sun City Formula Registry is in the process of

gathering the more than 4,000 signatures required to make the recall valid.

Board Policy No. 5 states: "Any initiative, referendum or recall petition must have a total number of signers greater than 10 percent of the corporate members as of the preceding July 1. All signers must have signed in person, and in addition to their signatures, will show a legible printed version of his or her name, recreation card number and the expiration date thereof. The completed petition will be filed with the secretary of the corporation."

Stewart said she and her group are well on their way to

getting the necessary number of signatures.

"This is an issue that a lot of people feel really strongly about," Stewart said. "We are out to protect Sun City from a board that doesn't listen to people. They have consistently ignored the membership's pleas and make decisions without listening to what the residents want."

Exact number of signatures is not known at this time because several Sun City Formula Registry members are circulating the petitions throughout the community. Stewart reported she is in the process of getting proxies for winter residents who

oppose communication towers in the community.

Patrick Gaines, who lives near a potential monopole site at Willowcreek Golf Course, said he also doesn't want the tower but is willing to live with it rather than sign a petition.

"It's one of the things that you just have to live with," he said. "As long as people live, there are going to be changes. We don't need to embrace them all, but most of the time it's futile to resist."

If the Sun City Formula Registry gathers enough signatures to launch a recall effort on all nine members of the RCSC board, the process

could take several months to complete, according to RCSC officials.

Board Policy No. 5 states the proper procedure for verifying signatures on all petitions normally takes about 20 days. During that time, if a signature cannot be verified, the petitioner — or Stewart in this case — would have an additional 10 days to provide supporting signatures to be verified, unless fraud is uncovered.

If the petitions are verified with enough valid signatures, the RCSC board will post a meeting date for the membership to vote on the recall.

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Stewart's fight with RCSC approaches 3 years

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Anne Stewart's name may be as well known in Sun City as the board members she's trying to recall.

Her opposition to the Recreation Centers of Sun City board these days is related to a communication tower controversy, but she got her start close to home.

Stewart's discernment with RCSC started in September 1999, when RCSC replaced a brook near her property with a cement gutter because of

erosion caused by the water on Lakes West Golf Course.

Stewart said she didn't want the brook removed, and would have preferred if the brook was overhauled instead of replaced with what she considers an "eye-sore."

Among some of the things Stewart wanted the board to do with the creek was to put flat rock along the bottom so it would look more natural. RCSC officials said Stewart was allowed to put rocks in at one time, but she caused an environmental problem by clogging some of the piping

on the courses. As a result, the cement was poured and the Sun City Formula Registry recall petition was born.

Stewart, director of the Sun City Formula Registry, which is an anonymous Sun City group critical of the RCSC board, reports the group's purpose on her Web site: "Our goal is to make Sun City a quality community again by alerting the RCSC membership about when the board goes against the formula for successful Sun Cities."

Based on her concerns

about the brook, Stewart informed the board in January 2001 she had "no other recourse" than to ask for a recall because board members refused to listen to residents' concerns about controversial issues. At the time, however, she said her petition was just an attempt to get the board's attention.

Although the recall was never fully realized with the brook issue, Stewart said she is gung-ho to follow through on her recall petition based on the communication tower controversy.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT JULY 10-16, 2002

Sun City Rec Board recall to proceed

Organizer remains undaunted

By Mike Russo
Independent Newspapers

Undeterred by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.'s refusal to authorize her first attempt to recall all nine board members, Anne Randall Stewart has launched another attempt.

Mrs. Stewart wants to recall the board members — President Jerry Swintek and board members Beverly Davis, Bud Hantke, Tom Whiston, Art Little, Dorothy Hirtzel, Gene Zylstra, Jim Frederick and Norman Dickson — because she believes they were derelict in their duty when they voted during the June 27 board meeting to lift the ban on communication towers on RCSC properties.

"We want to keep the ban on communication towers on Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. (RCSC) properties," Mrs. Stewart said in a letter to the

Recreation Centers requesting a control number to conduct the recall campaign.

RCSC Board Policy No. 5 details the proper procedure for attempting a recall, including:

- Recall petitions must contain valid signatures of 10 percent of the membership as of the previous July 1.

- A referendum petition must set forth the existing policy or regulation that is being challenged in clear and precise language that will allow the challenge to be determined by a yes or no vote.

- Before an initiative petition is filed, the party or parties intending to circulate and file such a petition, will submit the proposal (in the language that the initiative will contain) to the RCSC Board of Directors. The board will have 60 days from

the date of submission to accept or reject the proposal. If the proposal is rejected, the petition may then be filed with the secretary of the board.

- If an initiative or referendum is filed with the secretary, the secretary will have 30 days to determine and announce whether the required number of signatures have been obtained.

"I have applied for a control number," Mrs. Stewart said. "I have not heard back from them yet. If they don't give it to me, we will still go forward."

Libby Ivins, an administrative assistant to the RCSC board, confirmed that a letter had been received from Mrs. Stewart. "She sent a letter and we have prepared the documents for her but she has not picked it up yet," Ms. Ivins said July 3.

Mrs. Stewart's initial request to conduct a recall effort was denied by the RCSC attorney because the text described an event that had not yet occurred — the amending of Board Policy No. 16, which had imposed a ban on an additional communications towers on RCSC property.

"The objection they gave me was the text had not happened," Mrs. Stewart said. "But now it has happened, so we are proceeding with the recall."

Mrs. Stewart said 4,318 valid signatures will be required, based upon information she received from the Recreation Centers.

"I don't want 10 percent of the people to sign the recall," Mrs. Stewart said. "I want 50 percent of the people to sign the recall."

Mrs. Stewart said she has already gathered some signatures for her petition even without requesting them.

"We don't need these towers here," she said. "They can put them somewhere else. We already have cell phone service here."

"They are going to go forward with it (allowing AT&T Wireless to constrict a tower on Willowbrook Golf Course) and anyone who does not believe that is not paying attention," Mrs. Stewart added.

Mrs. Stewart said she is committed to seeing the recall through.

"We will go through whatever hoops we have to," she said.

"We are organizing the whole town," Mrs. Stewart said. "This is not just a recall effort, this is an organizational effort."

"Whether we succeed in the recall does not matter to us, organizing the membership does," she said.

Anyone interested in signing or circulating a petition, may call Mrs. Stewart at 933-6192.

Rec board members under fire

Recall efforts possible in Sun Cities

By Sean L. McCarthy
The Arizona Republic

It's not easy these days to serve on a Recreation Centers board of directors.

Unpaid and under siege, the nine-member boards in Sun City and Sun City West face separate yet equally critical recall efforts.

In Sun City, resident Anne

Stewart already is circulating petitions to recall all nine Sun City board members: Jerry Swintek, Dorothy Hirtzel, Bud Hantke, Bev Davis, Art Little, Norm Dickson, Jim Frederick, Gene Zylstra and Tom Whiston.

Stewart has been at odds with the board for years.

But her petitions focus on a June 27 decision by the board

(an 8-0 vote with one abstention) to change its policy on construction of communication towers. Previously, new towers had been prohibited from Sun City. Now they can be built with the board's approval. A cell tower is proposed for Willowcreek Golf Course.

For Stewart's recall to move forward, she and her supporters will need to gather signa-

tures from at least 10 percent of Sun City's corporate members.

In Sun City West, the recall talk remained mostly whispers last week, although several residents publicly stated they'd be willing to sign or gather signatures.

Their beef is with a \$93,405 severance package given to retired general manager R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff, as well as the method in which Sun City West's board handled the pay out to Andersen-Wyckoff and

the promotion of Jon Cannon to replace him.

Several hundred Sun City West residents packed the board's regular June 27 meeting and subsequent special meeting July 9. They begged board members to divulge financial information about salaries and severance for Andersen-Wyckoff, Cannon and other top managers.

The board released the information July 12.

Andersen-Wyckoff had been paid \$134,319 annually, including \$15,619 in retirement benefits and \$4,200 for vehicle allowances. Cannon, his successor, is being paid \$108,325 in total compensation.

Sun City West's board members claim they have been acting in the best interests of the retirement community.

"This was all done in good faith," board member Elaine McCraith-Anderson said. "We're not trying to cheat or gouge anyone."

McCraith-Anderson said only a handful of residents cared to show up for board meetings before this past month.

"These were not closed meetings," she said. "People were just not paying attention."

That isn't the case anymore.

"The good news is, you're showing interest," board member Tom Fagan told residents

last week. "I hope this leads to more participation in the open meetings."

If that should include a recall effort, Sun City West residents would be limited in whom they could target.

Sun City West's community bylaws hold that any directors in their final year of service are ineligible for recall, meaning Fagan, John Orr and Board President Allen Young. Three new directors began service July 1, after the severance package was approved, and seemingly safe from recall - Bob Beaupre, Robert Finn and Gene Godderis. That would leave only Tom Cook, Robert Hubbs and McCraith-Anderson eligible for recall.

Such an effort would require an initial 10-day petition of 200 signatures and a statement of 200 words or less specifying the reasons for recall.

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Rec Centers Board recall proceeding

Opponents debate effort's merits

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

Collection of signatures on petitions to recall the members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Board of Directors is going well, according to Anne Randall Stewart, effort organizer.

Although Mrs. Stewart is pleased with the signature-gathering effort, she will not divulge the number of names accumulated.

"We will not release information regarding the number of signatures collected," she said last week after speaking to the Kiwanis-Sun City Kachina Club. "It could discourage people from participating."

Mrs. Stewart and her followers have 120 days to collect about 4,318 valid signatures (10 percent of the membership as of the previous July 1) to force the recall election.

"We have until the end of October to collect the signatures," Mrs. Stewart said.

Despite the fact that slightly more than 4,300 sig-

natures are required on the petitions, Mrs. Stewart said she wants to collect more.

"We are going for 5,000 to 10,000 signatures," she said.

Mrs. Stewart wants to recall the entire board - President Jerry Swintek and board members Beverly Davis, Bud Hantke, Tom Whiston, Art Little, Dorothy Hurtle, Gene Zylstra, Jim Frederick and Norman Dickson - because she believes they were derelict in their duty when they voted during the June 27 board meeting to lift the ban on communications towers on RCSC properties. However, Mr. Little is no longer a board member, having resigned effective Aug. 6.

While speaking to the Kiwanians last week, Mrs. Stewart asserted, "Sun City is not being properly maintained; resources are being squandered on unnecessary projects."

"The board has been usurping membership power," she continued.

See **Rec Center**— Page 7

Rec Center

Continued From Page 1

Mrs. Stewart said the board members cannot be trusted.

"Our members do not wish to surrender the city - local, stock and barrel - to nine volunteers who have not even had background checks," Mrs. Stewart added.

Mrs. Stewart also contends the board has been fiscally irresponsible.

"They have squandered the capital preservation funds on the relocation of the spas at Lakeview," Mrs. Stewart said.

She also opposes the relocation of lawn bowling facilities to Bell Recreation Cen-

ter and removing tennis courts at the recreation center. Under a proposal, the tennis courts would be relocated to an enlarged facility at Marinette Recreation Center.

"Any removal of amenities in a neighborhood reduces property values," she said.

Mrs. Stewart is also critical of the board for not supporting the library. "That would be another loss of amenities," she said.

"They (the board members) don't see things the way Del Webb did," Mrs. Stewart contended.

RCSC Board member Norm Dickson cautioned the Kiwanians to get the facts before making a decision on the recall.

"What you have just heard



Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

Norm Dickson, a member of the Sun City Recreation Centers Board of Directors, and Anne Randall Stewart, leader of an effort to recall the RCSC's nine board members, addressed the members of the Kiwanis-Sun City Kachina Club last Thursday.

is distortion, rumors and innuendoes," Mr. Dickson said of Mrs. Stewart's presentation.

"This is the correct way of getting the facts," he said.

Mr. Dickson refuted Mrs. Stewart's contention that the board exceeded its authority in voting to repeal the ban on communications towers in the community.

"Her argument is based on two presumptions - the board had no right to change a prior board's decision and the tower will be ugly and reduce property values," Mr. Dickson said.

"The board acted within its power to remove the tower ban," he continued.

As for the assertion that the tower will be ugly, Mr. Dickson observed, "That is

an opinion. Not a fact."

"She has determined the tower will be ugly even through engineering specifications have not been determined," Mr. Dickson continued.

Mr. Dickson reassured the audience that a final decision has yet to be made regarding the tower.

"There will be more discussion of this at future monthly meetings," he said. "This issue is still under study. There has been no action taken and there will be none until there is further study and discussion."

Mr. Dickson said the board "must examine all options" before reaching a decision.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT AUGUST 28, 2002

Recreation Centers fills board vacancy

James Kuchler succeeds Art Little

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

A retired Air Force officer and a former logistics engineer with GTE Government Systems Division has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Board of Directors.

James Kuchler was named and installed during the board's Aug. 19 formal study session to fill the seat until the end of the year vacated by Art Little, who resigned Aug. 6 for health reasons.

Mr. Little was elected to a one-year board term last December. He was originally appointed to the board on Dec. 14, 2000, to fill the unexpired term of Norm Burt, who had resigned.

He served as chairman of the Membership Communication Committee, and was a member of the Long Range Planning and Legal Affairs committees. He also served on the recently reactivated Community Information Exchange Committee.

In addition, Mr. Little oversaw production of the monthly SunViews, which was his creation. The publication was launched in September 2001.

Mr. Kuchler, a three-year

resident of Sun City, has been serving on the Rec Centers' Engineering Committee.

"He has been very actively gathering information, such as articles of incorporation, bylaws and board policies," said Jerry Swintek, RCSC Board president. "He has become quite a student of board affairs."

It was that enthusiasm and dedication that led to Mr. Kuchler's selection, according to Mr. Swintek.

"We considered a couple of other people but the board felt with his enthusiasm and dedication, Jim was the best choice," Mr. Swintek said. "I think he will be a big asset."

Mr. Kuchler said he was honored by the appointment and he intends to continue to follow a path laid by Mr. Little.

"Basically I want to build on what Art Little has already started," Mr. Kuchler said. "He has done a nice job with SunViews and expanding the Rec Centers Web site and communication with the membership."

Mr. Kuchler has been appointed to Long Range Planning Committee, a chal-

lenge he relishes.

"I look forward to that," he said. "That is the future of continued long-range growth of Sun City. We must continue the amenities and lifestyle of Sun City."

Since he is completing an unexpired term, Mr. Kuchler is eligible to seek election to his own board seat in the December election. "I hope he runs of his own term in the December election," Mr. Swintek said.

Mr. Kuchler has experience and training in various managerial, supervisory and technical positions involving training development, acquisition logistics, telecommuni-

cations/computers and meteorology, Mr. Swintek noted. He has also taught mathematics at the secondary school level.

The new RCSC director has a doctorate degree in mathematics and science education from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. He is a member of Pi Lambda Theta, an international honor society and professional association in education, and a member of the editorial panel for an annual journal on Research in Mathematics and Science Education published by the Graduate School of Education, University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

Mr. Kuchler and his wife, Laura, have two sons.

Daily News-Sun - Saturday, August 31, 2002

Pole position

**TUESDAY
MEETING:** Sun
City rec board
schedules talk
about monopole

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Much to the dismay of Sun City Formula Registry members, it looks as though a new communications tower is a go in Sun City.

Jim Frederick of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors announced Thursday that AT&T has made the community a proposal to build a cellular communication pole at Willowbrook Golf Course. Funding for the pole would come from AT&T, which is willing to pay RCSC somewhere around \$1,000 a month to have such a structure erected.

Frederick said he received the proposal Wednesday and hasn't had a chance to look it over in much detail, but would study it over the weekend.

Details of the proposal will be discussed at a committee meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

Two months ago, the RCSC board revised a board policy that had banned such structures on community land. The reversal opened the way to allow negotiations with cellular companies to build communication towers on RCSC land.

The change also caused a local opposition group — the Sun City Formula Registry, headed by Anne Stewart — to launch a recall petition of all nine board members who voted in favor of the policy change.

The Formula Registry is in the process of gathering the necessary signatures for the recall, according to Stewart.

The overall mood of Thursday's meeting was friendly, with just one board member calmly criticizing Stewart's efforts.

Director Norm Dickson said Stewart's accusations

against the board are based on lies. To prove his point, he went down a list of claims made by Stewart and meticulously debunked each one.

An example, Dickson said, was Stewart's insistence that communication towers were not what Del Webb envisioned when he created Sun City.

"Fact: The communications tower at 111th Avenue and Grand was erected in 1962," Dickson said. "This was a time frame that was well within Del Webb's idea of what Sun City would have."

When Dickson finished his calm but blunt diatribe that lasted close to 10 minutes, the nearly 100 residents in attendance gave him a standing ovation.

At the meeting, Stewart countered some of Dickson's comments and requested RCSC board members and volunteers stop trying to stop

the recall petition circulating throughout the community.

Stewart remained calm throughout her time at the lectern, and talked for less than her two-minute allotted time for individual public comment.

In June, the Maricopa County Department of Planning and Zoning confirmed AT&T applied for a permit to construct a tower on RCSC land at 10505 W. Union Hills Drive. The permit process takes about seven months to complete, and the final decision depends on RCSC board members.

According to RCSC President Jerry Swintek, resident reaction to a monopole has been mixed. He said some residents are concerned it might look similar to the monopole at Marinette Recreation Center, which juts more than 80 feet into the air. That structure will be coming down within the next five years when a contract with

Qwest Communications expires.

The Marinette monopole was erected without RCSC board approval, which prompted the policy to ban all future communication towers on RCSC land. That policy was overturned two months ago, paving the way for the tower at Willowbrook.

The Willowbrook tower will have tight restrictions, however, according to Earl Feierabend, RCSC's operations director.

"We want it between 50 and 65 feet tall with a lot of other regulations," he said. "For the amount of money it will bring in, there is no reason that we will be forced to agree to something that is not acceptable on our terms."

Moreover, Feierabend said, if this pole is erected at Willowbrook, there are no plans to construct any future ones within the community.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

DAILY NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, SEPT. 20, 2002

RCSC relents on fees for veterans' group

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS: Group used Mountain View Auditorium for 37 years without charge

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers did an about-face this week and agreed to let the Sun Cities Military Order of the World Wars use a community auditorium for free.

The veterans group has been using Sun City facilities — specifically Mountain View Auditorium — for their massing of colors in March every year for three decades. The group, until this year, has not been charged for the auditorium's use. This year, however, when the group requested space for free, they were denied — until this week.

Last year, the RCSC updated some of its policies to increase fees to clubs renting facilities that are not part of Sun City. The fee structure ran the gamut from non-chartered clubs to residents renting space from outside the community's borders. Specific fee structures depends on the hall rented and needed services.

"I know that they have been here for several years, but they are not a Sun City club," said Jerry Swintek, RCSC president. "Technically, they should be charged a commercial rate for renting the auditorium, but we offered them a residential rate, and they still had a problem with it."

Bruce McDonald, spokesman for the veterans group and current president of the Sun City Taxpayers Association, said the group has been using Sun City facilities for some years and found it unacceptable that the RCSC would suddenly charge them.

"I reminded them that we have been using the facilities for 37 years and never had a charge in the past," he said. "Sun City has the highest concentration of veterans in the state, and they contribute a great deal to the volunteer effort in the community. It's not a matter of money; it's a matter of respect to the veterans."

See RCSC adopted, A5

From A1

McDonald said he reiterated the importance of getting the auditorium to the RCSC board, and after pointing out the history and importance of veterans in the community, RCSC agreed to rent the room without charge.

"We are very pleased that they reconsidered," McDonald said. "We were trying to work in harmony, and we agreed last year and this year to pay for the light and sound technician. This is something we do for the veterans and the community."

In addition to sound and light technicians, Swintek said there is a lot more cost incurred and usually absorbed by RCSC, which causes heartache during tight budget years — as has been the case with RCSC for the last two years.

"There is a lot of cost to RCSC when someone rents a hall," Swintek said. "We have set-up costs, electricity, employees and other things. That's one of the reasons why outside groups are not given these facilities for free."

About 60 percent of the Sun Cities Military Order of the World Wars are Sun City residents, with the remaining percentage from surrounding Northwest Valley communities.

Swintek said because the group is not made up solely of Sun City residents, it was charged for use of the facility. Those charges were rescinded, Swintek said, with the

understanding that the group would look elsewhere in the future to hold its ceremonies.

"Hopefully, they will look at Sun City West and Sun City Grand in the future," he said. "These expenses add up, so it would be nice to spread them throughout the communities."

Before agreeing to give the veterans the facility for free, Swintek said the RCSC offered the group use of the Sun Bowl, but the group wanted Mountain View Recreation Center instead — the site of its previous ceremonies. It was later agreed to let them use that facility.

The new fee structure has forced other Northwest Valley clubs to look elsewhere when trying to bring programs into the Sun Cities. Earlier this year, the Sun Cities German American Chorus was forced to hold their annual Oktoberfest in Sun City West after RCSC more than tripled its rent of the Sundial Auditorium, according to Klaus Sander of the chorus.

Klaus said in 2001, the rental for the hall was \$628 and the year before the rent was \$621. For 2002, however, the amount being charged was closer to \$3,000.

"There was no explanation or anything," Sander said. "So we went to Sun City West, got a bigger hall and are being charged \$425 for the night — and that includes a technician."

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT October 9, 2002

Attempt continues to salvage lobbyist program for Sun Cities Forum schedules another meeting this week

By **Jeremy Pearlman**
Independent Newspapers

Gretchen Jacobs is hopeful her lobbying days for the state's senior population is not over before it began in earnest.

Since Aug. 1, Ms. Jacobs has been the acting lobbyist for the Arizona Senior Citizens Forum - an organization started by the major governing organizations in the Sun Cities with the purpose of presenting a unified voice to state and local agencies on senior-related issues.

While the majority of Ms. Jacobs' initial work has revolved around issues connected to the Sun Cities and establishing contacts, the intent of the forum is to have a lobbyist representing the elderly population statewide and gaining additional members from senior groups throughout Arizona.

But this effort has been dealt what could be a serious blow, because one of the forum's supposed early supporters is refusing to pay its portion of Ms. Jacobs' bill.

Ms. Jacobs agreed to be the Forum's lobbyist for \$45,000, annually. This fee would be split in four, with the Rec Centers of Sun City and Sun City West each paying 40 percent, and the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Property Owners and Residents Association each paying 10 percent.

Claiming to have never given its authorization to join the forum, the Recreation Centers of Sun City Governing Board has spurned paying Ms. Jacobs for her work so far.

In June, the RCSC board gave its approval to further study the idea of a lobbyist during a formal study session, but did not agree to join the forum.

When the issue came up again before the board, later in the summer, it was tabled because directors still had questions on the forum.

Before the board voted either way on joining the forum and hiring a lobbyist, its president, Jerry Swintek, signed an engagement letter to hire Ms. Jacobs and signed the forum's non-profit incorporation documents.

It wasn't until Mr. Swintek came back to the RCSC board seeking authorization to pay Ms. Jacobs' bill, that the rest of the board discovered Mr. Swintek's earlier actions, according to Gene Zylstra, RCSC director.

"If the board hasn't approved of being a member, we sure haven't approved signing something where we have to pay money," Mr. Zylstra said.

On Sept. 26, the RCSC board met with Forum members, to try and answer questions about the organization.

"I have a personal relationship with Sun City West people and I just felt bad that it sounded like the board was reneging," Mr. Zylstra said. "I talked to Bob Jones (the Forum's president) and got together a meeting with our board and the Forum ... in order for our board to get information.

"I think the board got most of the information it was looking for and think it was a successful meeting," Mr. Zylstra

See Lobbyist — Page 3

Lobbyist

Continued From Page 1 added.

The RCSC may still become a participant in the forum, according to Mr. Swintek.

"This is not a dead issue at this point," Mr. Swintek said. "The board is still considering it and has asked for additional information so that they can make a determination if they

want to be a part of the Forum."

Confirming that he had signed an engagement letter with a signature sheet, Mr. Swintek said the RCSC's attorneys are examining the issue.

"We are working with legal counsel to come to a resolution," Mr. Swintek said.

In the interim, Ms. Jacobs has slowed down her lobbying work until things are worked out.

"I am just going to assume things will work out," Ms.

Jacobs said. "I'm pretty hopeful that things will work out.

"I have definitely slowed down. I haven't set up any more meetings," Ms. Jacobs added. "I don't want to hold myself out as representing them (the RCSC) if I'm not."

If the RCSC's board chooses not to participate in the Forum, Ms. Jacobs believes it would still be possible for the Forum to continue, though it would be difficult.

"I don't think if I reduce my

rate ... the (Forum) could come up with the funding because the RCSC is an integral part of the funding for the lobbyist," Ms. Jacobs said. "Though, I'm not ruling anything out."

There has been no deadline placed on the RCSC to join the Forum, according to Mr. Jones.

"We haven't given them a deadline. We haven't tried to push them," Mr. Jones said. "The ball is in their court and let's hope they can play the game."

Mike Russo contributed to this story.

Rec Centers Board recall proceeding

Organizer vows to continue effort even if deadline missed

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

Time is running out on Anne Randall Stewart in her effort to recall the members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Board of Directors, but she vows to continue the fight.

Nov. 9 is the deadline for Mrs. Stewart to submit petitions bearing 4,318 signatures (10 percent of the membership as of the previ-

ous July 1) of Rec Centers members in order to force a recall election. Her goal is to collect 5,000 signatures.

Mrs. Stewart said signature gathering is going well but she refused to divulge the number of signatures obtained thus far. She believes releasing this information would discourage people from signing the recall petitions.

Should Mrs. Stewart and her supporters fail to collect

the required signatures by Nov. 9, the recall effort will continue, she said.

"If we go beyond Nov. 9, this petition will be invalid but this will not be the last petition," she said. "We will start another petition drive. Everyone is so hot to get these people out."

Mrs. Stewart wants to recall the entire board - President Jerry Swintek and board members Beverly Davis, Bud Hantke, Tom

Whiston, Art Little, Dorothy Hurtle, Gene Zylstra, Jim Frederick and Norman Dickson - because she believes they were derelict in their duty when they voted during the June 27 board meeting to lift the ban on communications towers on RCSC properties. However, Mr. Little is no longer a board member, having resigned effective Aug. 6, being replaced by James Kuchler.

The tower issue also became moot when the Rec Centers broke off negotiations last week with AT&T Wireless to possibly place a communication tower at the Willowcreek Golf Course maintenance yard.

If Mrs. Stewart fails in her attempt to gather 4,318 signatures, and launches a subsequent petition drive,

See **Centers** — Page 9

Centers

Continued From Page 1

she will have to seek the recall on different grounds.

"(RCSC) Bylaws state you cannot initiate a recall for the same issue for three years," Mrs. Stewart.

Undaunted, Mrs. Stewart said that would not be a problem.

"We have many issues with the board," she said. "It is not just the tower issue.

"With this board, the membership has no power," she continued.

She said bylaws changes effected by the board earlier this year has further eroded membership power.

Mrs. Stewart said she and her followers are also opposed to the Rec Centers participating in the corpora-

tion that has retained a lobbyist to represent Sun City and Sun City West.

"The lobbyist will be looking out for the best interests of the Rec Centers and not the individual homeowners," she said.

The manner in which the Rec Centers conducts its annual election is also a bone of contention with Mrs. Stewart.

"We want the election conducted properly," Mrs. Stewart said. "These people continue to run illegal elections. In our bylaws it says voting is to be one day only. There is nothing about early voting."

She has also on several occasions questioned the security measures used by the Rec Centers to ensure the integrity of the election. The Rec Centers has used

the services of the Maricopa County Elections Department to conduct the election using Sun City volunteers. Members of the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City have provided security. Early voting has been permitted during the annual Arts and Crafts Festival at Sundial Recreation Center.

This year's election is scheduled for Dec. 10 at Fairway Recreation Center, Lakeview Recreation Center, Social Hall No. 2; Bell Recreation Center, Social Hall No. 1; Marinette Recreation Center and the Sun City Home Owners Association office.

Mrs. Stewart has also taken exceptions to the bidding process used for the repairs to the Sundial Recreation Center roof.

"They are obstructing the

membership," she said of the board. "They won't allow one expert on the bid committee who knows anything about roofs.

"I have a gentleman with 40 years of roofing experience who wants to examine the roof and they won't let him," she added.

Mr. Swintek disputes Mrs. Stewart's recollection of the roof bidding process.

"She told me she had someone who wanted to look at the roof to me at an open meeting," Mr. Swintek said. "The closing date for the bids had already passed.

"She is saying the people we are hiring are unqualified," Mr. Swintek added. "If she has someone who is more qualified, they need to register as bidders with the Rec Centers."

**JERRY SWINTEK:**

It is regrettable that this happened, and we will work to make sure something like this never happens again.

RCSC board chief issues apology

LOBBYIST PAYMENT: Lack of authorization constitutes breach of contract

JOHN SOKOLICH and MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors President Jerry Swintek apologized Thursday for jumping the gun and signing a contract to hire a lobbyist without board approval.

Swintek signed the contract on behalf of RCSC to hire Phoenix-lawyer Gretchen Jacobs as a lobbyist for the community.

However, in mid-October, the RCSC board reneged on its funding agreement with Jacobs.

"The RCSC had not authorized me to sign a document with (the lobbyist)," Swintek said at Thursday's RCSC meeting. "It is regrettable that this happened, and we will work to make sure something like this never happens again."

Swintek's signature tied the Recreation Centers to the Arizona Senior Citizens Forum Inc., which is composed of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association and the Sun City Home Owners Association.

The four entities had agreed to hire

Jacobs for an annual salary of \$45,000.

A week ago, the Daily News-Sun obtained a letter written by the RCSC to the three other organizations that stated the RCSC board would not pay its share.

Those three groups plan to keep Jacobs as a retirement-community lobbyist, but that doesn't mean the RCSC is off the hook.

Jacobs said she spoke to RCSC lawyer James Hinton last Friday, and he said that they would talk again.

"We'll see what happens. I'm assuming they will do a buyout," she said. "I would like to take it one step at a time. It's premature until I speak to Mr. Hinton. They say they don't want to pay

anything, and I think they should."

Jacobs would not go into detail about any negotiations to get paid, and RCSC officials have been tight-lipped about what they are planning to do.

A press release from PORA Director Bob Jones states Jacobs will serve the three organizations who are paying their agreed shared amount as she works to iron out issues with the RCSC.

A tentative agreement, the release reads, has been reached between the Arizona Senior Citizens Forum Inc. and Jacobs.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

Recall attempt fails to muster sufficient signatures

Fight to oust board to continue

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

An effort to recall the members of the Sun City, Inc. Board of Directors was in limbo last week when the Nov. 6 deadline to file petitions passed without a submission.

Anne Randall Stewart, the leader of the effort, drew petitions on July 9 to recall of the entire board. She had 120 days to gather the required 4,318 valid signatures (10 percent of the membership as of the previous July 1) and file the petitions, but she was out of town on family matters when the deadline arrived and was unable to file the paperwork.

In a telephone interview Friday afternoon, Mrs. Stewart revealed she and supporters did not get the required signatures.

"We did not reach the 4,318 signatures we needed," she said.

She would not divulge the number of signatures collected but she said "it was substantial."

"We are very encouraged by the reaction we have received from the membership," Mrs. Stewart said.

Although Mrs. Stewart was out of town when the deadline passed, Jerry Swintek RCSC Board president, said an extension would have been granted because of the circumstances. "We would extend her the courtesy of the submitting the petitions late and then the board would decide what to do.

"We will give her a week or so," he continued. "That would certainly be reasonable."

That is now a moot point since the required number of signatures were not attained.

Mrs. Stewart sought to recall the entire board - Mr. Swintek and board members Beverly Davis, Bud Hantke, Tom Whiston, Art Little, Dorothy Hurtle, Gene Zylstra, Jim Frederick and Norman Dickson - because she believes they were derelict in their duty when they voted during the June 27 board meeting to lift the ban on communications towers on RCSC properties. However, Mr. Little is no longer a board member, having resigned effective Aug. 6. He was replaced by James Kuchler

Mrs. Stewart vowed to continue her effort to recall the board.

"We are going to proceed with collecting the signatures," she said.

"We are going to get rid of these people," Mrs. Stewart

See **Recall** — Page 5

Recall

Continued From Page 1
continued. "If we don't get rid of them, we will force them to change their way of thinking.

"They are dealing with my retirement security and that is why I am involved," she added. "Del Webb started the dream and we have to keep it alive."

If Mrs. Stewart chooses to launch another recall drive, she will have to cite another reason for the recall.

"The same reasons cited on the recall petition cannot be used for three years," explained Helen Thiel, administrative assistant to the RCSC Board.

Mrs. Stewart she said that would pose no problem. She said she and her supporters have many points of contention with the board.

"The membership wants to vote on the pipeline," Mrs. Stewart said. "We are also opposed to tearing up our perfectly good tennis courts at Bell. They are ruining the city.

"This recall effort has put it in the face of the people so they can see how the membership's power has been usurped," she continued. "We have no power.

"We have been trying to get the issues out to the people," she added.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11, 2002

SUN CITIES SLATES: PORA, HOA, Sun City Rec Board choose new leaders

MICHAEL MARESH and JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Voter turnout in the Sun Cities was low for community elections this year, in what was considered a rather quiet campaign.

Traditionally, the Sun Cities have the highest voter turnout in the state when it comes to national and state elections, but the numbers drop off considerably when it comes to the local elections.

Last year, amid a politically charged campaign in the Sun City elections, residents had voting numbers of about 14 percent, which more than doubled the earlier averages of about 6 percent voter turnout per year for the community elections.

This year Sun City had a voter turnout of 4.2 percent. In the elections for the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Recreation Centers of Sun City, just one candidate running was not elected to a post.

In Sun City West, the voter turnout was less than 4 percent for the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association. In that election, members elected five new directors Tuesday with incumbents finishing first and second in the voting.

● Sun City Home Owners Association

In results announced this morning, four of five candidates running for the Sun City Home Owners Association were elected to the 12-member board, as recent vacancies left most of the seats unchallenged.

Allen White, Thomas Stolt, Rita Roddy and Paula Hitzeman took seats, while Mitzi Neisz, who resigned from the election, did not receive enough votes to be elected even if she hadn't resigned.

For the HOA board, the recent resignations of Gordon Rosier and Arne Bidstrup guaranteed a position for all five candidates running for the board.

The HOA is responsible for enforcing the community's deed restrictions, but has recently taken on bigger issues for the community, such as pollution and dust control in the area.

None of the candidates running showed up for the press conference Wednesday morning, but HOA President Gerry Unger said he was happy with the election results.

BALLOT COUNTS

Recreation Centers of Sun City:

- James Klug — 876
- Jim Kuchler — 1,208
- Art Little — 1,191
- Gayle Schmidt — 1,329

Sun City Home Owners Association:

- Paula Hitzeman — 1,002
- Mitzi Neisz — 792
- Rita Roddy — 1,039

- Thomas Stolt — 1,060
- Allen White — 1,086

Sun City West

Property Owners and Residents Association:

- Alegro Godley — 313
- Louis Goldman — 312
- Bob Hill — 286
- Bruce Posey — 364
- Dusty Rhodes — 495
- Carl St. Bernard — 246
- Chuck Ullman — 467

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT December 18, 2002

Turnout light for Sun City election

Only 4 percent of voters cast ballots

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

Gayle Schmidt, James Kuchler and Art Little won three-year terms as Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. directors and Allen White, Tom Stolt, Rita Roddy and Paula Hitzeman were elected to three-year terms on the Sun City Home Owners Association Board of Directors during the community's Dec. 10 election.

Voter turnout was very light as only 1,796 of an estimated 42,000 eligible vot-

ers, or 4.27 percent, cast ballots. That represented a sharp dip in voter participation from last year. In 2001, a total of 4,627 ballots, or 10.9 percent of the RCSC membership, were cast in the election.

Mrs. Schmidt was the top vote-getter among RCSC candidates, garnering 1,329 votes. She was followed in order by: Mr. Kuchler, 1,208; Mr. Little, 1,191; and Mr. Klug, 876.

In the HOA race, Mr.

See Results — Page 7



Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

Elected to the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Board of Directors in the Dec. 10 election were, from left, James Kuchler, Art Little and Gayle Schmidt. They are scheduled to be installed as directors during the Dec. 19 board meeting.

Results

Continued From Page 1

White polled 1,086 votes to finish first. He was followed by: Mr. Stolt, 1060; Ms. Roddy, 1,039; and Ms. Hitzeman, 1,002. Mitizie Neisz had originally announced her candidacy but withdrew from the race prior to election day.

Mr. Kuchler thanked everyone who made the effort to vote.

"I want to build on what the board is doing for the

benefit for Sun City residents," said Mr. Kuchler, who has been serving on the RCSC Board since being appointed in August to replace Mr. Little, who resigned at that time for health reasons.

Mr. Little was appreciative of the residents' confidence in him in electing him once again to the board.

"I had a lot of things I wanted to get done ... I got three of them done — Sun Views, the Blue Book and the Foundation but there is more to be done," Mr. Little

said.

He would like to increase citizen participation in the board process.

While Mr. Little appreciated the vote of confidence, he was disappointed in the light voter turnout. "It's ludicrous to have 42,000 people eligible to vote and only 1,700 vote," Mr. Little said.

Mrs. Schmidt became the second member of her family to be elected to office. Her husband, Jim, serves on the Sun City Fire District Board Directors.

"I hope I can live up to

everyone's expectations," she said.

The new RCSC directors will fill the expiring terms of Beverly Davis, Mr. Kuchler and Gene Zylstra. Mr. Kuchler is not succeeding himself, since he was on the board as an appointee.

HOA directors whose terms expired are Mr. White, Mary Januchowski, Helen Struble and Gerry Unger, who served as HOA's president this year.

Anne Randall Stewart, a frequent critic of the RCSC directors, was disappointed

in the slim voter turnout and in the election results.

"We expected a larger turnout," Mrs. Stewart said. "I think a lot of our residents were away for the holidays. I would like to see the election held when people

are here. "We are very disappointed James Klug did not get elected," she added. "I hope this group (of directors) will be different and not squander our money."

FRIDAY, JAN. 3, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Swintek ends term as RCSC president

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jerry Swintek stepped down as president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Thursday, saying "it was time for a change."

At a meeting held to elect new officers at Lakeview Recreation Center, Swintek relinquished his top post to Dorothy Hirtzel, who has served as vice-president on the board for the last year.

"I was looking to have some more time and enjoy my retirement, so I wanted to just stay on as a regular board member," Swintek said.

Swintek has been president of the RCSC for the last two years and took the spot from former president Bob Briscoe who was term-limited off the board at the end of 2001.

Hirtzel said she exciting about the coming year and the amount of work the RCSC will be undertaking in 2003.

"There will be a lot of challenges," she said. "There is always the budget, but what we want to do is listen to the membership and communicate with them better."

Hirtzel said she is not envisioning major changes in the board policies and procedures, but would like to have one voice for the entire board rather than just what the president wants.

"We have a very good working machine with the board this year," she said. "What we do will be from the board and not just one person on the board. We want to be more defined in what we do and make our actions earlier to understand by the residents."

Taking the vice presidential spot was Norm Dickson, who has been on the board for a year and has worked to bring legal affairs to the forefront of RCSC policies.

Bud Hantke was re-elected to the treasurers spot and Jim Kuchler was elected to the secretary's post, which was vacated by Beverly Davis who finished her term on the board at the end of December.

RCSC officials report that committee appointments are still being considered, but a full slate of officers will be announced next week.

The RCSC is a nine-member board that is responsible for the oversight of all the community's recreation centers and golf courses. The RCSC budget averages about \$14.5 million.

This year the RCSC faces a tight budget year as golf and food services have posted overall losses. Because the decline in revenue and increased expenses, more than \$2 million were not included on building expenditures.

The RCSC has been in the process of upgrading recreation centers in the community — most notably the Sundial Recreation Center, which is on the final phases of a major overhaul. With the budget tight, improvements will be left on necessary repairs rather than scheduled upgrades.

In addition to the officers who were elected Thursday, the following members will make up the board with director status: Jim Frederick, Art Little, Gayle Schmidt, Swintek and Tom Whiston. Each of the directors have one or more committees that they chair and are members of.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.



Swintek

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

January 29, 2003

RCSC to consider fee changes

Assessments may be charged per house, not per person

By **Mike Russo**

Independent Newspapers

The controversial proposal to change the manner in which the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. annual fee is assessed will be considered by the Board of Directors during its 9 a.m. Jan. 30 meeting.

The proposal would

change the assessment from a per person to a per property basis. If the proposed change is approved, each property would be assessed \$300 annually. Currently, the assessment is \$150 per person.

Should the board approve the change as proposed, it would be effective Feb. 1, 2003, for all new residents.

Current property owners would have their existing rate "grandfathered in." They could, however, opt to have the new per-property fee assessed, but such a decision would be irrevocable.

The shift is designed to make the assessment more equitable for everyone, and make it easier for the board to budget its revenues,

according to board member Jim Frederick, who presented the proposal during the board's December meeting.

Under the proposal, everyone on the deed would have to purchase a rec card. Owners of the lot would obtain a maximum of two activity cards under the \$300 assessment. Additional cards for multiple owners of record

would cost \$150 annually.

The proposal has drawn considerable comment from residents, according to Dorothy Hirtzel, RCSC Board president.

"We have heard from a number of residents, but most of them don't understand it," Mrs. Hirtzel said.

See Fees — Page 7

Fees

Continued From Page 1

"We will explain during the membership meeting, before the regular board meeting, that it will not affect any current residents," she continued. "Anyone who lived here prior to Feb. 1, 2003, will be exempt as long as they live here, no matter how many times they move.

"It will be a membership forum (prior to the board meeting), so they can ask their questions and get the answers."

There will be no public comment during the actual board meeting.

One of the more vocal opponents of the plan has been Anne Randall Stewart. She delivered a letter regarding the assessment change to Mrs. Hirtzel during last week's board study session.

"We are asking them to postpone implementation and put it to a membership vote," Mrs. Stewart said.

She said that if the board members don't comply with the request to postpone the vote, she would ask them to resign. And if they refuse, she said she would pursue a recall of board members.

Mrs. Stewart has noted that when the assessments were changed to per property previously, the move drew some legal challenges.

The assessment fee had been on a per person basis

until changed by the board effective May 1992. It remained on a per property basis until the board reversed its decision, effective Jan. 1, 1997.

The per property assessment drew the ire of some residents, who felt it discriminated against those who lived alone, and led to Charles F. "Steve" Stevenson, who lived alone, filing a lawsuit on Oct. 1, 1996, seeking reimbursement of \$200 from the Recreation Centers for the previous two years'

assessments. The fee at the time was \$200 per property.

Four more similar suits were filed on Oct. 9.

The initial lawsuit was dismissed, and the others were soon dropped.

Mrs. Stewart also believes the per property assessment is discriminatory.

"A single person will have to pay \$300 and get one vote," Mrs. Stewart observed.

She said she would approve of a per property assessment if it were \$150 per property and \$150 for

each rec card.

There are currently 13,992 residences in Sun City that have only one inhabitant, according to RCSC Treasurer Bud Hantke.

"Some people have complained that it is being done so quickly," Mrs. Hirtzel said. "But we have been considering this for more than a year."

"We have got to look to the future," she added.

RCSC adopts per-home fee

\$300 A LOT: Change affects future residents

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Starting Saturday, people who move to Sun City will pay \$300 lot assessments per household, regardless of how many people live in the home.

Current residents will be grandfathered under the present fee structure, meaning they can choose to pay \$150 per name on the deed or choose to pay the per-lot assessment of \$300. If they choose the per-lot assessment, however, they cannot

go back to the per-person assessment later.

"The guarantee part is that you can remain on a per-person basis as long as you live in Sun City," said board Vice President Norm Dickson.

The change, approved Thursday by a unanimous vote of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, was not without critics, many of whom were concerned single residents would be unfairly burdened.

"You're getting your money. You do not have to get it on the backs of single people," resident Margaret Stoddard told board members at Thursday's annual membership meeting.

RCSC Treasurer Bud Hantke said current residents will not be saddled with the increase. "I want to make sure the speaker understands this additional \$150 is not on your back," he said. "It's on people who aren't here yet."

About two dozen residents spoke at the meeting, and of those who took a stance on the assessment issue, more supported it than were opposed.

"Anybody who thinks we're paying high even at \$300 is greatly mistaken," said resident Phylis Roach. She said newer retirees should be able to afford the cost, and even at \$300 it is lower than most

other retirement communities, particularly given its amenities.

"People who are retiring today are retiring with more money — usually — than people who retired 10, 15, 20 years ago," Roach said.

Others raised questions about how titles could be transferred to a limited liability corporation or trust, and whether a grandfathering would carry over in that case, and how to add additional names to deeds.

Board President Dorothy Hirtzel said she would like to schedule an educational meeting to answer some of

See RCSC, A5

From A1

those questions and give residents a how-to clinic for making changes to their deeds.

Regarding some specific questions at the meeting:

- The lot assessment is not the same as a recreation-card fee. New residents will get two rec cards with their annual lot-assessment payment, but will pay an additional \$150 per person for additional individuals listed on deeds who want rec cards.

- Residents who move

within Sun City are grandfathered.

- Privilege cards will remain at \$150, and 20-punch guest cards will still be available.

- Although grandfathered individuals can choose to pay the per-person fee rather than the per-lot fee, the per-person fee may be increased in the future.

- Currently, corporations, partnerships or trusts that own a Sun City residence may not vote in RCSC elections. Under the change, a corporation, trust or

partnership may select an age-qualified person who lives in the residence to vote on its behalf.

Hantke said the change to a per-lot assessment is moving the centers more in line with how many other organizations and businesses charge consumers. Comparing it to the cable company charging for connections, he said such businesses charge per home rather than per person.

"So this is not a real radical change in how the economy works, but it's a change," Hantke said.

The change will allow the board to better predict assessment income and will help ensure its financial security in the future, according to board members.

"This has been in the public record for a year now. It's not something that was rushed into," Dickson said. "This will not solve everybody's individual problems, but it's overall an improvement over the system we have."

Katy O'Grady can be reached at 876-2514 or kogrady@aztrib.com.

Del Webb communities	
Association Fee Comparison	
Great Island, Plymouth, MA	\$3,300 per lot annually
Anthem, AZ	\$2,770 per lot/\$780 per lot
Sun City Palm Desert, CA	\$1,808 per lot annually
Sun City at Huntley, IL	\$1,272 single family & \$2,508 twnhse annually
Sun City Roseville, CA	\$1,164 per lot annually
Lincoln Hills, CA	\$1,164 per lot annually
Sun City Hilton Head, SC	\$1,135 per lot annually
Sun City Anthem, NV	\$940 per lot annually
Sun City Texas	\$870 per lot annually
Sun City Aliente, NV	\$840 per lot annually
Sun City Vistoso Tucson, AZ	\$700 per lot annually
Sun City Summerlin, NV	\$680 per lot annually
Sun City Grand, AZ	\$675 per lot annually
Sun City West, AZ	\$174 per person annually
Sun City, AZ	\$150 per person annually

Source: Recreation Centers of Sun City

Charles Wade/Daily News-Sun

Rec board recall effort targets four of nine

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

In a departure from her last attempt at recalling members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors, Anne Randall Stewart will not seek to recall the entire board, just the four officers and one director.

Mrs. Stewart has requested a "control sheet" for a petition to recall President Dorothy Hirtzel, Vice President Norm Dickson, Secretary Jim Kuchler, Treasurer Bud Hantke and Jim Fredericks, chairman of the legal committee.

She is miffed by a recent decision to change the manner in which the annual assessment is levied by the RCSC.

The board has 60 days to respond to Mrs. Stewart's request, said Jerry Swintek, RCSC board member.

Mrs. Stewart spearheaded an effort last summer and fall to recall all nine RCSC board members. The attempt failed to garner a sufficient number of signatures.

"Removing five would remove a majority and encourage new people to run," Mrs. Stewart said in explanation of her new tactic.

"We are not in this for a vendetta," she continued. "We are in it to gain control of the board. ... My fear is they are going to stonewall us until

everyone leaves town, and then we may fail again."

Mrs. Stewart will need to collect 4,318 valid signatures (10 percent of the membership as of the previous July 1) in order to force a recall election.

If permission is granted for the recall attempt, Mrs. Stewart would then have 120 days to gather the requisite number of signatures.

The number of signatures needed was the same in last year's recall attempt, when Mrs. Stewart and her supporters were unable to gather the requisite signatures by the Nov. 6 deadline.

Mrs. Stewart doubts the accuracy of the signature requirement.

"That seems too high," she said. "They should be able to provide proof that there are that many members."

The earlier recall effort was launched because Mrs. Stewart and her supporters felt the RCSC directors were derelict in their duty when they voted during a June 27 board meeting to lift the ban on communications towers on RCSC properties.

Mrs. Stewart has established a Petition Hotline, 933-6192, for those seeking more information about her effort. She may also be contacted via e-mail at anne@annereport.com.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 2003

Finn resigns as legal-affairs chairman

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When the president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West appointed himself as the legal-affairs committee chairman in January, he was taken to task by other directors.

Thursday, Bob Finn stepped down at the request of Director Carolyn Jennings, whom he replaced as the committee's chair.

Director Tom Cook said Finn should remain chairman.

"Mr. Finn is the only member of the board who has a legal background," Cook said. Finn was a Superior Court judge in Nebraska. "What happens when you keep changing chairs this rapidly is you have no continuity.

"It will be better for the board if we leave things as is until the March (election)," he added.

Finn had said he would step down when the board had nine members. The board is operating with eight directors following the resignation of Gene Godderis.

Jennings said it is not necessary to have a background in law to chair the committee as long as there are other lawyers involved in the

process.

Finn was surprised at accusations labeling him unethical.

"I thought things were kind of healing, but apparently they are not healing yet," he said. "These assignments have been political football."

Finn said he took the committee's helm because he believed nothing was being reviewed by the group, including the hiring of former General Manager Jon Cannon as well as the severance package awarded to Cannon's predecessor, R. G. Andersen-Wyckoff.

"The risk of not having a good legal committee is it does nothing," Finn said. "When all this mischief was going on nothing was reported to the legal-affairs committee."

Director Bob Beuapre said the president should not chair any committee.

Director Patrick McBurnett said Finn's appointment was nothing but a "power grab."

Finn then told the board he was stepping down as chairman immediately to put the issue to rest, saying there would be another director appointed to the committee in late March.

Resident Bob Nelson, a member of the legal-affairs committee, said the issue was being blown out of proportion since Finn has maintained he would be removing himself as chair in March when a whole board was seated.

Resident Bob Healy said he was disappointed with what he saw at the meeting.

"What has been expressed today is there is still a desire to attack the board (president) in every way possible," he said. "It seems (him) heading the legal-affairs committee is logical. I wish you would show him some cooperation."

Resident Richard Ahlgren said there is nothing in the bylaws precluding the governing board president from chairing a committee.

Resident Martin Bell said if the board is really worried about an officer chairing a committee, then Vice President Elaine McCraith's chairmanship should also be called into question.

Jennings then substituted her motion by asking the board to accept Finn's resignation as chairman of the legal-affairs committee.

Director Stan Warner, noting there was a 1 p.m. Thursday legal-affairs committee

meeting, wanted to know what would come of it without a chairman.

The parliamentarian said Finn could appoint a director to replace him.

The motion to accept Finn's resignation was passed 6-1-1 with Cook dissenting and Warner abstaining.

Immediately following the vote, Finn appointed Cook legal-affairs chairman, though the parliamentarian informed the president he could not do so since the director is serving on two committees, which is the maximum allowed.

"Which one do you not want Tom?" Finn asked, before naming Warner as the chairman of the committee, which he grudgingly accepted.

Michael Maresch can be reached at 876-2513 or mmaresch@aztrib.com.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT April 2, 2003

Cutting expenses helps RCSC balance books

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. has started the year on solid financial footing.

Through the end of February, RCSC income totaled \$2,879,650, which was slightly below the \$2,908,379 budget.

However, although revenue lagged a bit, that was more than offset by a trimming of expenses. Expenditures for the year's first two months amounted to \$2,203,947, \$139,530 below budget.

RCSC Treasurer Bud Hantke credited the organization's managers for keeping expenses in check.

"Our managers are right on top of this," Mr. Hantke said.

Although they "are working on a bare-bones budget," he said, "they try to do everything they can to hold the line on expenses."

Total revenue for February was down \$90,000 compared to February of last year, primarily due to a decline in golf revenue and a \$20,000 drop in member program and club fees, according to Mr. Hantke.

A wet and relatively cool February kept golfers off the links and dollars out the RCSC coffers.

"We had seven days of rain in February," said Jim Frederick, RCSC director and chairman of the golf committee.

Guest rounds were down 9 percent in February compared with the same month last year, according to Mr. Frederick.

"Membership rounds were down 22 percent," he said.

Prepaid green fees were \$134,423 in February — \$144,859 was projected in the budget — and totaled

\$268,542 through the first two months of the year. The budget for the two-month period was for \$291,213.

Daily green fees and surcharges for the month produced revenue of \$290,283, \$48,240 below budget. The same fees generated revenue of \$115,907 in January and February combined, close to the budgetted amount of \$117,318.

The most significant contributor to the underachieving golf revenues was in daily green fees and surcharges, which produced \$290,283 in February, as opposed to a budget of \$338,523. Much of that was attributable to the loss of rounds to the inclement weather, Mr. Frederick noted.

For the first two months of the year, daily green fees and surcharge have generated revenues of \$605,401, only 1.37 below the projection of \$613,828.

Despite the decline in rounds played in February, the golfing division's net income was up more than \$100,000 during the same two months of 2002, Mr. Frederick noted, as a result of cost-cutting measures.

Member programs and club fees fell significantly short of the budget in February, producing revenues of \$14,788. The budget for the month was \$34,529. Mr. Hantke was not certain to what the shortfall could be attributed.

Although that segment of the budget suffered in February, for the first two months of the year, it was on par. Revenue amounted to \$80,447 and the budget called for \$80,438.

"We are in pretty good shape," Mr. Hantke said.

Legal fund to pay for litigation

Formed to protect member rights

By **Lindsey Remington**
Independent Newspapers

Members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City can now pay for protection of their rights from the RCSC board of directors.

Sun City community activist Anne Randall Stewart has established a legal fund that would pay for future litigation against the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, if needed, to protect the rights of the RCSC members.

So far the amount in the fund is \$625.

"The fund was formed because the only way to stop the board from doing something is through civil litigation," Ms. Stewart said. "No

one is going to put themselves in personal jeopardy to fight the board, so the board gets to make all the decisions... We (members) are living under a dictatorship."

Ms. Stewart established the fund June 16, after an RCSC board work session was held to gather public comment on plans to revoke 30-year-old golf course covenants for Lakes West, Lakes East, Riverview, South, and North golf courses.

Adjacent property owners to the golf courses, among other residents, donated money to hire an attorney to protect their rights against

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Fund

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changing the covenants and sue the RCSC.

The RCSC decided not to alter the covenants, but Ms. Stewart decided to keep the fund intact to pay for future litigation against the RCSC.

Jerry Thompson, of Parker & Thompson, will be the representing attorney if litigation is requested.

"People donate to the fund so we can stand up to them (board)," Ms. Stewart said. "We have not gone out and gotten money. Most of it was dropped

in my lap at the meeting on the 16th.

"I was going to rip up the checks that I had received, and the people that had donated the money said to keep it and put it in a fund for future litigation."

Issues that could be potential lawsuits in the future could include: the renewal of the Quail Run golf course covenants, setting limitations to the board's spending, and current recall election policies.

"We would need to raise a couple thousand dollars just to begin a lawsuit," she said. "The board wants the members to be powerless. They can do whatever they want with

our money."

Other issues Ms. Stewart said she would like to see accomplished include: the board not being able to purchase anything over \$750,000 to make the members in debt without a membership vote; and members being able to pull items from an agenda, if they have a petition with at least 100 signatures, for consideration by the board at a later date when several RCSC members are out of town, such as during the summer.

A non-taxable checking account was established in Ms. Stewart's name, who was bonded through Western Surety Company, to assure dona-

tions will be used for their stated purpose.

If she dies or moves away, the money will be donated to the Sun City Taxpayers. Since the account is non-interest-bearing, it does not impact her personal finances.

Donators can monitor their donation at Ms. Stewart's Web site at www.annereport.com.

Make checks payable to Anne Randall Stewart with a notation of "Legal Fund Donation" and send to 10526 W. Tropicana Circle, Sun City, Ariz., 85351-2218.

Call 933-6192 or go to the Web site at www.annereport.com for more information.

Officials question RCSCW budgetary expenditures

DISPARITY: Per-member operational expense exceeds that of RCSC

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

As the governing board of the RCSCW prepares to vote on its 2003-'04 fiscal-year budget Thursday morning, a few directors are looking at what a similar nonprofit corporation spends.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City budget amount is nearly identical to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West proposal, though RCSC membership is 33 percent larger.

The RCSCW, with 28,000 members, proposed expenditures for the upcoming year of \$13.44 million, while the RCSC — with a membership of close to 42,000 — has a

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing-board meeting
- **WHEN:** 8 a.m. Thursday
- **WHERE:** R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. in Sun City West

budget of \$13.91 million. The RCSCW's per-member operational expense is \$480, compared with \$332 for the RCSC.

RCSC directors declined to comment about the disparity.

Barbara DuPonte, RCSCW director elect, said the information obtained from the RCSC should have been made available weeks ago, so the board could have examined why the two organization's expenses are so different.

In a budget workshop on April

29, RCSCW General Manager George Grimstad said he had tried to gather information from the Sun City organization, but was unsuccessful.

"I was glad someone was able to get the information," DuPonte said. "I do know it was easy to get the information."

She said the comparison reveals the RCSCW should look at other communities with similar interests, and added Sun City in many ways mirrors Sun City West. DuPonte said the operational costs were most surprising because Sun City has seven rec centers to maintain, while Sun City West only has four.

"The board should explore it," she said, noting there is not much time to look into the matter, since

See VOTE, A5

SUN CITY and SUN CITY WEST RECREATION CENTERS FACTS and FIGURES

Major Facilities	Sun City	Sun City West
Approximate population	42,000	28,000
Large multi-use centers	7	4
Hot spas	10	5
Swimming pools	8	6
Lake, boating and fishing	1	0
Bowling centers	2 (40 lanes)	1 (30 lanes)
Pool rooms	4 (45 tables)	1 (30 tables)
Golf courses	8	7
Restaurants run by recreation centers	2	0
Snack bars	5	6
Tennis courts	19	36
Fitness centers	5	4
Walk/jog tracks	2	2
Softball field	1	1
Major Budgeted Items	Sun City 2003 Operating Budget	Sun City West 2003/2004 Budget Proposal
Total expenditures	\$13,911,403.00	\$13,442,338.00
Operating expenditures per resident	332.22	480.03
Total golf expenditures	5,002,770.00	4,304,584.00
Total golf payroll, pr tax and benefits	2,900,482.00	3,809,742.00
Golf repairs and maintenance	503,566.00	1,137,807.00
Golf equipment leases	0.00	531,543.00

OVER

From A1

the board votes Thursday.

Director Bob Hubbs said bylaws dictate the governing board must vote on the budget in the month of May. And DuPonte said that is her understanding as well.

"Once the budget is voted on and approved, it is what we will have to work with," she said, noting new directors taking office in July will not be able to amend it.

DuPonte said it would be a good idea to wait to get more information, but that she knows that is not going to occur.

RCSCW board President Bob Finn said the issue of whether the vote should be delayed was briefly discussed, but it was decided the budget had to be voted upon in May. Finn said he believes the budget will get the required six votes, but added that the bylaws do not state specifically what happens if it is not approved.

Finn said since both Sun Cities are Del Webb communities, it seems logical to compare budgets.

"I just want them to

explain to me or justify why our payroll costs are not the same as theirs," he said.

Sun City golf payroll expenses count \$2.9 million against the RCSC's budget for its eight courses, while the RCSCW would pay out \$3.8 million in golf payroll for its seven courses.

"I thought it would be \$3 million to \$4 million more than us," Finn said when discussing the overall expenditures for the two associations.

"I was shocked," he added. "That threw up a red flag, to me."

Director Stan Warner, still reviewing the budget after being away for 10 days, said he has seen the comparison. Warner said all things, including hours of operation, should be explored before trying to compare the two associations' budgets.

"An awful lot of things need to be taken into consideration," he said. "We need to discuss apples-to-apples. We may be, but I would need more information."

Michael Maresh can be reached at 876-2513 or mmaresh@aztrib.com.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

April 16, 2003

RCSC may exit catering business

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

The fate of the financially troubled catering services of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. may be determined during an April 17 meeting of the RCSC finance committee.

The meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. in the RCSC board room at Lakeview Recreation Center. The public is invited to attend.

RCSC catering lost \$22,459 in 2002. The RCSC budget anticipated a profit of

\$19,000. The division has lost another approximately \$2,400 during the first two months of 2003, according to Bud Hantke, RCSC board treasurer.

There are three options to be considered, Mr. Hantke said:

- Discontinue the catering division.
- Continue as is.
- Continue with a new, more efficient catering kitchen.

Mr. Hantke said the catering operation has been busy,

but not profitable, serving 9,738 customers at 156 events in the five-month period through March 31.

"That does not include the Apple Dumpling Festival (in April) or the (March) fun fairs," he noted. "This is a very sizable operation."

"They had eight functions last week," remarked Tom Whiston, RCSC board member, at a work session April 7.

"We have kind of revved it up since Earl Feierabend (RCSC operations manager) came here," Mr. Hantke said.

"Prior to that, it was a on a much smaller scale, working out of one of the cafes.

"We are not trying to make a significant profit with catering, but we would like to break even."

The finance committee will make a recommendation to the the RCSC Board of Directors regarding the future of the catering division, and the full board will make the final decision.

Mr. Hantke said things had started to look up for the catering unit in late 2001, but

losses began to mount once again through most of 2002. The fourth quarter activities, however, generated a profit of about \$4,000.

The division reverted to its losing ways in 2003, he said.

One option that will not be considered is leasing the operation to a concessionaire, Mr. Hantke said.

"A catering concessionaire was used a few years ago, but the quality was not acceptable," he said. "We have very few complaints about the quality of our food."

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

April 23, 2003

Committee recommends catering remain

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

Retention of the catering service of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. in its present format, along with continued study of the feasibility of constructing a new, more efficient kitchen, is the recommendation of the RCSC finance committee.

The RCSC Board of Directors is expected to consider what to do about its catering service during its 9 a.m. April 24 meeting at Sundial Auditorium.

The motion to retain the

catering service was approved by a 5-2 vote of the committee April 17. Voting in opposition were Harold Boudrie and, in absentia, Gene Zylstra. Both of them favored scrapping the catering program.

Catering, which was forecast in the budget to earn a \$19,000 profit in 2002, actually lost \$22,459, but RCSC Board Treasurer Bud Hantke said the operation's financial picture is improving.

For the five-month period ending March 31, 2003, catering turned a \$9,175 profit, according to Mr. Hantke.

"We are making headway in

the catering operation," Mr. Hantke said. "Income doubled, while expenses rose only 22 percent, so we are becoming more efficient."

Progress has continued in April, according to Earl Feierabend, director of centers operations.

Through April 16, catering generated revenue of \$28,700 and was projected to tally sales of \$7,221 the rest of the month, which would result in a single-month revenue record of \$35,921, according to Mr. Feierabend.

Several residents spoke in favor of retaining the catering

operation during the course of the meeting.

The finance committee also discussed the possibility of constructing a new kitchen specifically for the catering service.

Mr. Feierabend said a consultant indicated it would cost in excess of \$400,000 to construct a kitchen. A kitchen of at least 1,500 square feet would be required, he noted.

"We are talking about a lot of money," Mr. Feierabend said.

The kitchen would than have to be built at a site that can accommodate a large gath-

ering, narrowing the options to Sundial and Lakeview recreation centers, according to Mr. Feierabend.

"You need a place where there is no limitation on how many people you can serve," Mr. Feierabend said. He mentioned that Sundial can seat about 800 people for a sit-down dinner or a dinner-theater performance.

Mr. Feierabend suggested that if the committee was going to recommend the construction of a kitchen it should not cut corners.

"If you are going to build a kitchen, do it right," he said.

RCSC committee to dish up fate of catering service

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

RCSC's budget and finance committee will decide Thursday whether to recommend continuing the centers' catering service.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has struggled with its catering division in the past, but revenues have rebounded in recent months. Still, its upward swing may not be enough to save the service.

"About five or six months ago, the budget and finance committee determined that we would study catering and make a recommendation to the board of directors in April of this year whether or not it should continue or whether it should stop," said Bud Hantke, the RCSC board of directors' treasurer and the budget and finance committee's chairman.

Hantke said the catering service in its present form is "fairly new" so the committee decided to review it to make sure it was on track.

"We got off to a poor start, and we didn't

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want to continue incurring losses," he said. "It brings in a lot of income, but the expenses have exceeded the income. Right now we're doing better."

The catering division accommodated 9,000 people at 151 events in the five months ending March 31, Hantke said. That doesn't include RCSC's successful Fun Fairs at six of the recreation centers in February and March.

"You can see that we're providing an amenity to the people," he said.

Hantke said he believes catering offers quality food and service at good prices.

One resident who agreed voiced her support for catering during an April 7 directors/members exchange. Mildred Selinsky asked the board about a new quilters group starting as a sub-club of the Sundial Stitchers, saying the group is required to hold a certain number of meetings before becoming official, but is charged \$25 per meeting for the room they use.

"We finally decided we can't pay \$25. We're just a group of ladies who want to sew together," Selinsky said.

That dilemma gave her the idea to request that the board allow groups that use RCSC catering to also use a meeting room for free. She said the arrangement would help both club members and RCSC catering.

Selinsky said members of another group she is involved in for retired nurses said they appreciated the quality of RCSC catering's food and thought the price was reasonable. They are willing to pay for meals catered by the centers if they could get the room for free.

"Maybe they could cater us out on the sidewalk somewhere," she said. "I'd like you just to review your policy."

Along with its discussion about catering's future, the

budget and finance committee has discussed the possibility of adding a separate catering kitchen.

The future of catering will be discussed and a recommendation made at the committee's meeting at 1 p.m. Thursday in the board's conference room on the upper level of Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

The committee will make its recommendation to the board at the next formal meeting, 9 a.m. April 24 in Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

The community is invited to both sessions.

Katy O'Grady can be reached at 876-2514 or kogrady@aztrib.com.

September 3, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

Salamone ordered to pay fine, keep distance

Sun City man sentenced in recreation centers' threat case

By Erik Burg

Independent Newspapers

Sun City resident Nick Salamone was ordered to pay a \$305 fine and sentenced to one year of unsupervised probation for threatening the Sun City Recreation Centers Governing Board in a letter he delivered to the organization's offices.

The decision was handed down by Judge Lex Anderson at the Peoria Justice Court, 7420 W. Cactus Road, Aug. 25. Mr. Salamone was also told to refrain from contacting members of the governing board.

Three members of the governing board, President Dorothy Hirtzel, Vice President Norm Dickson and Treasurer Douglas "Bud" Hantke, testified they felt threatened by a letter Mr. Salamone delivered to the governing board's offices Jan. 30. The letter alluded to an incident in which



Photo by Erik Burg/Independent Newspapers

Nick Salamone is cross-examined during his trial at the Peoria Justice Court, 7420 W. Cactus Road, Aug. 25.

Richard Glassel opened fire three.

The hand-written letter, addressed to Ms. Hirtzel, states in part: "Next thing on

my mind is this talk about foreclosure on a person's house. I think you board members are really (sic) going to make trouble for yourselves (sic) and others. Look at what happened at Ventura (sic) Lakes. You know if that happens (sic) to me, I may crack up and do something like that. Who knows what a person would do? Do you?"

Mr. Salamone signed the letter with his name and telephone number.

While on the witness stand, Mr. Dickson stated the RCSC saw the letter as a legitimate threat and put new security measures in place as a result, including a security gate and a self-locking rear door. He added that a member of the sheriff's posse now is in attendance at every board meeting.

"When I see Mr. Salamone coming, I look for bulges or anything that I think could be a threat," Mr. Dickson said. "I think that it's a pru-

dent approach to this situation.

"We took it very serious." He added that the board has never foreclosed on a resident's home, and Mr. Salamone had no reason to believe it would begin to do so.

"We set policy," Mr. Dickson said of the governing board. "We do not run day-to-day operations."

Deputy Edward Butler of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office testified that he visited Mr. Salamone's residence shortly after the letter was reported and issued him a criminal citation. He confiscated a .25 caliber gun from the residence as well.

While on the stand, Mr. Salamone admitted writing and delivering the letter in question but said his intent was never to threaten any member of the governing board.

He added that he had never been late in his assessment fees and had no reason to believe he would lose his home. Rather, he said he was thinking about other residents who might contemplate a violent act.

"They should think about this before they act," Mr. Salamone said.

Following the verdict, Mr. Salamone's attorney, James Fisher, said he disagreed with Judge Anderson's verdict and would recommend his client appeal the decision. Mr. Salamone did not comment on the advice of his attorney.

Community activist Anne Stewart said at an RCSC meeting last week that the legal fund she is building to fight the RCSC in court would donate money to help fund Mr. Salamone's appeal, should he choose to go forward.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9, 2003

RCSC guide fresh off the press

New publication keeps residents informed

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors has published "A Guide to Your Active Lifestyle," to inform members of the RCSC rules and regulations.

RCSC board President Dorothy Hirtzel referred members to the guide's "code of conduct" during the RCSC informal exchange Monday morning at Lakeview Center.

The code of conduct states "Members and guests must conduct themselves so as not to jeopardize or interfere with the rights and privileges of other members and guests." The code also addresses

language use, safety issues and how members may formally make complaints about RCSC employees.

Hirtzel said development of the code of conduct was prompted by directors' realization that the board and staff had a code of conduct, but not the general membership.

"We realized ... that the membership needed one, too," she said.

The newly printed guide replaces the "old gray book" previously published by the board, Hirtzel said. It was created as something to hand out to residents moving into Sun City; however, the board recognized many current residents are not aware of the rules and regulations.

The guide includes the

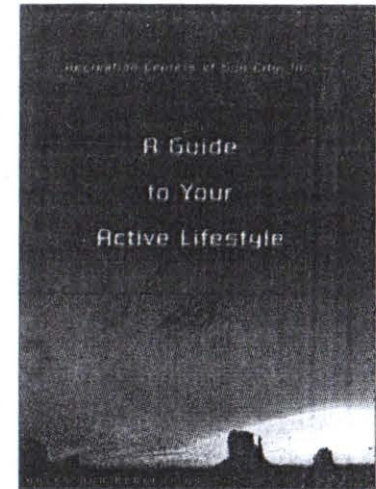
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Code of Conduct

- Members and guests must conduct themselves so as not to jeopardize or interfere with the rights and privileges of other members and guests.
- Members are responsible for the conduct of their guests.
- Members and guests will refrain from loud, profane, indecent or abusive language.
- Members and guests will not harass or accost any other member, guest, RCSC employees, directors, officers or committee persons.
- Members and guests will not compromise the safety of others by their actions.
- Physical or verbal abuse directed at other members, guests or RCSC employees, directors, officers or committee persons will not be tolerated.
- Members will be held responsible for any damage to RCSC property caused by the members or their guest(s).
- Members will not reprimand or discipline any RCSC employee. Comments and complaints should be placed in writing and directed to the appropriate RCSC Operations Director.
- Members and guests will not interfere with the management of RCSC. Comments and complaints should be placed in writing and directed to the appropriate RCSC Operations Director of the Board of Directors.
- Members and guests will obey all safety rules and will refrain from any unsafe activity.
- Members are prohibited from profiting financially from their membership by charging guests for the use of RCSC facilities.
- Proper dress is required in all RCSC facilities.
- Any member who conducts himself for herself in an unbecoming manner or who breaks a RCSC rule or regulation is subject to disciplinary action.

Source: Recreation Centers of Sun City

DAILY NEWS-SUN



"A Guide to Your Active Lifestyle" is available free to members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City at the membership office at the Lakeview Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. The guide features a code of conduct, left.

Wear & tear

Age, use take toll on RCSC

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Leaking wastewater pipes. Worn-out electrical panels. Poorly insulated buildings.

Sun City's recreation centers and golf courses are in constant need of repair, as the aging facilities — some constructed more than 40 years ago — increasingly show signs of wear and tear.

Years of use, plus harsh environmental conditions that include extreme heat and monsoon moisture, combined with construction problems in some cases, leave the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, managers and staff with difficult decisions to make regarding repairs and accompanying costs.

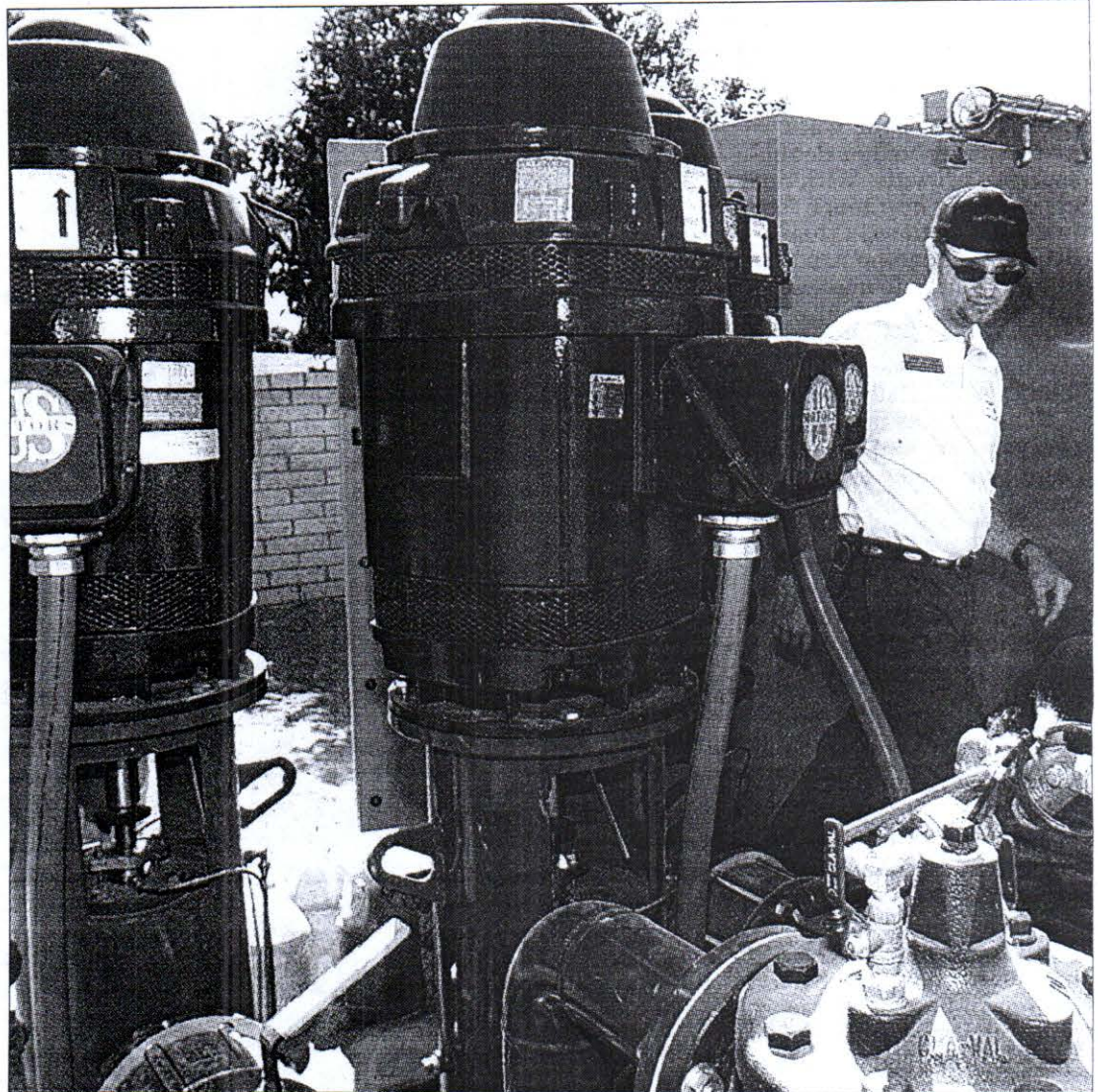
RCSC employees must frequently troubleshoot problems and make decisions on issues ranging from electrical problems to structural or material problems to plumbing issues — all to adequately provide for the more than 1.5 million membership visits to the facilities annually. Then there are the golf courses.

Signs of aging

When Sun City was built, it was in the midst of an open agricultural area surrounded by cotton fields.

"There were little or no building codes at the time," said Earl Feierabend, RCSC director of centers operations.

Builders were likely following construction protocols of the time, he said. But over the years, RCSC employees have encountered problems in the way



PHOTOS BY STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

John Snyder, director of golf for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, walks around a new pump being installed at Willowcreek Golf Course.

buildings were designed and constructed that have led to damage.

Consider recent problems at the Sun Bowl. Feierabend said the concrete fascia on the front of the pavilion — a large piece of precast concrete affixed to the front rim of the structure encompassing the stage — had to be replaced this month. In August, a structural engineer deemed it a safety hazard, as it was inadequately attached to a laminated beam during installation in 1966, when the Sun Bowl was built.

Or consider a recently discovered leaking wastewater pipe in the men's bathroom at the Sun Bowl, which led to deterioration of wooden studs in the walls. Mold and moisture was found in the walls because materials used did not prevent moisture from soaking the drywall.

Problems created by moisture and heat are not unique to the Sun Bowl, Feierabend said.

"It is a common theme at every rec center — where there is a bathroom, a shower ... or anywhere

where water exists in any form," he said.

Recreation-center walls were built using drywall, which does nothing to prevent moisture, Feierabend said. Today, walls can incorporate "greenboard," which repels moisture.

"The temperature and moisture and time affect everything," Feierabend said. "Since we have no moisture barriers in the showers and restrooms, it creates problems."

There are two ways of

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dealing with problems: taking corrective measures when one surfaces, or performing preventive maintenance.

Fixing problems when they surface is the cheaper way to go, and is often the route the RCSC must take, Feierabend said. One drawback is, "Then you end up with different colors of tile, different textures. When you get enough of those kind of things, it's a real hodge-podge look."

Another problem with RCSC facilities is improper insulation.

"These buildings have little or no insulation, so we spend a lot of money cooling and heating," Feierabend said.

Changes in plumbing design over the years has led to the need to replace toilets and showers, he added: "We have high-volume toilets that waste water." Toilets and shower heads have been replaced with low-volume models, as required by the county for water conservation, Feierabend said.

Electrical panels and circuits often fail as well, as was the case this summer with electrical panels at the Lakeview Recreation Center. Electrical panels on the roof which controlled the air conditioning needed to be replaced as parts wore out. Two panels were replaced at a cost of \$9,925, Feierabend said. At the same time, the Clay Club wanted to install new electrical devices that Lakeview's circuitry couldn't handle, and the RCSC is installing new ones to the tune of \$1,500-\$2,000.

Course management

John Snyder, Recreation Centers of Sun City director of golf operations, stood next to a series of fat, shiny turquoise pumps Wednesday morning as workers fine-tuned a new water-pumping station. The pump station has been closed for the last month to remove the old system, and reopened Thursday with equipment that will conserve more electricity and water.

During his 15-month tenure with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Snyder said he has seen the need for changes on community courses to maintain their beauty and viability for years to come.

Aging pump stations that distribute water to irrigate fairways were constructed of steel, using brass in the sprinkler heads. Since installed, the steel pipes have rusted, and many of each golf-course system's parts are in need of replacement. Today's sprinkler systems and pump stations are constructed of PVC, plastic and concrete to avoid such deterioration, Snyder said.

Irrigation systems of the 1960s watered with the goal of flooding the grass, Snyder said. They were not designed with conservation in mind, and they could not provide water at various flow levels and speeds, as needed on desert courses.

With replacement of the Willowcreek pump station, workers discovered sand in its base. This caused the walls to cave in as the new station was installed. The cave-in damaged the electrical panels, which then

had to be replaced, Snyder explained. Maricopa County required new, updated electrical service.

The old pump station, installed in 1973, consisted of a 5,000-gallon pressurized tank with a steel liner that had rusted, and water had begun to leak out.

"This is a concrete wet well that will never rust out," Snyder said, pointing to the new well.

Four large pumps and one small pump make up the system, distributing water through control panels called variable-frequency drives.

Irrigation systems now are designed for variable pressures and speeds. For example, the new station can adjust flow for one sprinkler head or 100, Snyder said.

All RCSC pump stations need to be replaced, he said.

"Our plan is to replace two a year," Snyder said.

The Willowcreek station was the most expensive, due to replacement of the wet well at a total cost of \$160,000. Others will likely cost \$80,000-\$100,000, he said.

Attention also is being focused on the sand bunkers.

"The sand in the bunkers has been there for a long time," Snyder said.

At some point, it will need to be removed and replaced. Over time, wind and rain has blown soil in and mixed it with the sand, "so it's no longer a sandy, playable surface." Also, tee-tops have shifted and settled; all the tee-tops on RCSC courses need to be leveled, Snyder said.

Another problem with golf course and other buildings is that the roofs are in need of replacement. Leaking roofs are a frequent problem, Feierabend said.

Patch Work

RCSC plans for facility overhaul

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

There are 2,000 homes sold per year in Sun City, but if the community wants to continue attracting new residents, Sun City must keep up with repairs and offer attractive amenities, said Norm Dickson, Recreation Centers of Sun City board vice president.

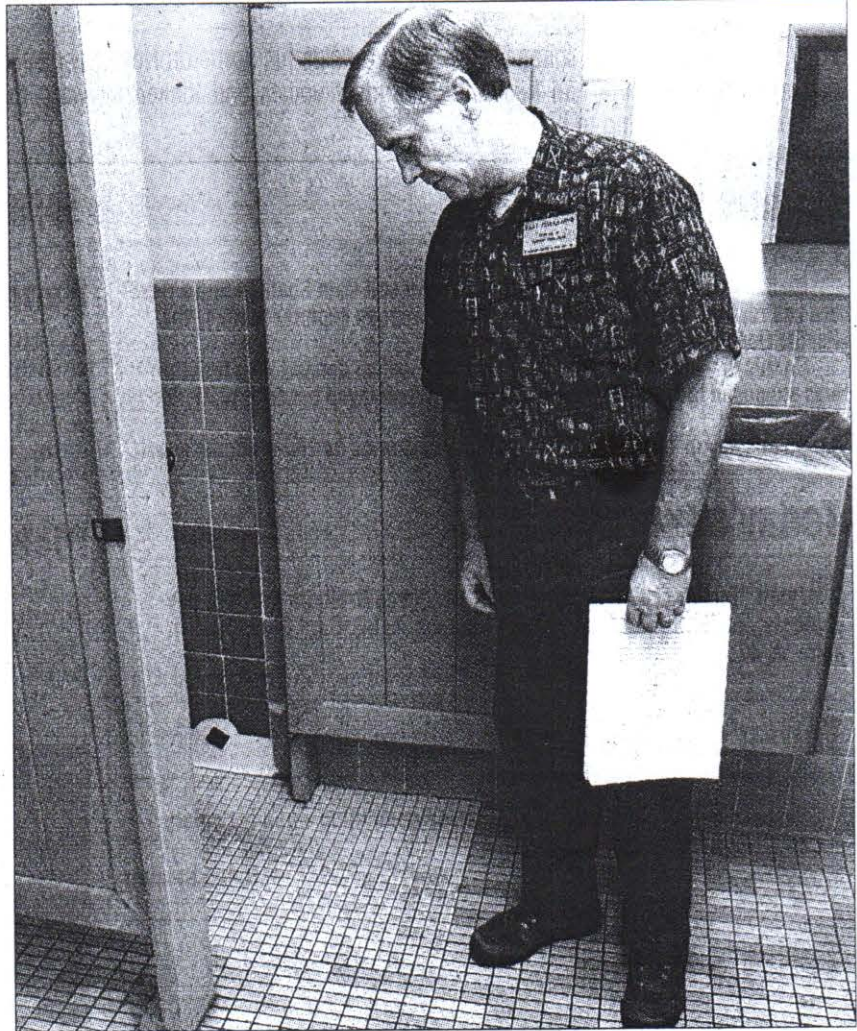
"If you figure (on average) 1.5 people per home, that means 3,500 retirees have to choose Sun City over all these other retirement communities," Dickson said.

The RCSC board established a Capital Preservation Fund in 1999 for the purpose of financing major improvements to recreational facilities. New purchasers from then on have paid a one-time \$700 fee into the fund. The fund stands at just less than \$2 million, Dickson said.

The Long Range Planning Committee is researching ways to improve the facilities. Plans being discussed for the near future include rebuilding or remodeling the Fairway Recreation Center.

"We've been at this for a year," Dickson said of the committee's work. "What we've come up with is, every center needs some major remodeling work."

This is the second in a two-part series examining aging facilities in Sun City. In Friday's story, Recreation Centers of Sun City officials described the most common problems encountered at recreation centers, other buildings and golf courses. Today, officials discuss how repairs and remodeling projects are funded, what the Long Range Planning Committee is considering for future amenities, and what direction the community should take in years ahead.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Earl Feierabend, centers operating director for RCSC, stands on mismatching tile at the men's restroom in Lakeview Recreation Center.

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Golf-course infrastructure also needs work. The North Course irrigation was recently redone, and the RCSC is considering what to do at the South Course next, said John Snyder, director of golf operations.

Earl Feierabend, director of centers operations, pointed to the new, albeit costly, remodeling project at the Sundial Recreation Center as a model for future projects. Attendance at the center increased 82 percent in June, 78 percent in July and 62 percent in August over the same months last year, much more than the 50 percent the board expected following the remodeling.

"Absolutely phenomenal," Feierabend said.

Now the RCSC has a new concern: Can the center handle the volume of use after winter visitors return?

The project did not come cheaply. The original proposal for Sundial's remodel included a limited number of renovations at a cost of approximately \$350,000. However, Feierabend said, there was not an official budget for the project — a misconception among some corporation members.

The renovations totaled \$2.3 million, which included renovation of the pools, deck, locker rooms, restrooms and the men's club, he said. Area Realtors used to take prospective buyers to the Lakeview or Bell recreation centers to show off Sun City's amenities; now they take them to Sundial.

"If we don't rebuild and keep things up, people are not going to move in here," Feierabend said.

Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center, agrees that Sun City's facilities need updating, especially if the community wants to attract younger retirees.

"If you think of people who are in their 50s now, they've grown up with Gold's Gym and World Gym," Herrmann said.

Not only do the centers need to consider what equipment and amenities to offer, but Herrmann feels it may be time for RCSC to look at the

way it presents those amenities to retirees.

While using the exercise room at the Marinette Recreation Center one night last week, Herrmann said he realized something.

"You've got four treadmills up there, and they're facing a brick wall," he said.

By contrast, Boomers who are used to working out in gyms are accustomed to watching CNN or listening to music while they work out, he said.

Music is another story; depending on the monitor working, the workout tunes vary, Herrmann said.

"You can go in one day and have some nice, lively jazz music," he said. "Other days ... it sounds like a funeral dirge."

In his daily work at the Visitors Center, Herrmann said he has increasingly realized the need for change in Sun City — not only to meet the needs of current residents, but to attract new residents to keep the community viable and vital.

Herrmann said he supports the idea of remodeling

or rebuilding Fairway, and looking at relocating the membership offices at some point.

"I would love to see the Fairway change," he said.

Herrmann has a vision for bolstering amenities offered at Fairway, Lakeview and Bell recreation centers, making all three of them more complete centers, "representing every club we have," he said. That would ensure each geographical location in Sun City, from north to south, would not be far from a "super" rec center, and the other four centers would provide added convenience.

Some members become upset about even considering remodeling or rebuilding projects in the community, Herrmann said. But long-range planning is not just about "razing Fairway," or demolishing existing facilities, he said.







Dickson said adequate funds are available to move in that direction.

"The finances are there" in the capital-preservation fund, he said. "It should be done for the good of the residents of Sun City."







SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.

MEMBERS: 42,500+	DIRECTORS: 9 elected by the membership	PAID EMPLOYEES: 430 ±
ACRES: 1,100	NET WORTH: \$50-60 million	YEARLY BUDGET: \$15 million
VOLUNTEERS: About 1,400		

Sun City is the world's first, largest and most successful retirement community. It is the largest "country club" anywhere. Read below about the wide range of activities Sun City has to offer:

<p>143 Clubs: 10 dance 2 computer Model railroad Handicapables</p> 	<p>38 Arts & Crafts 8 Exercise 3 Photo</p>   <p>Rose club</p> 	<p>30 card & game clubs 10 social 2 national RV club 17 sports activities</p> 	<p>12 music & drama clubs Stamp Travelogue</p> <p>Garden Club</p> 
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In addition to the above clubs, the Recreation Centers members have a multitude of facilities activities available to them. These include:

<p>7 large multi-use centers 10 hot spas 8 swimming pools 1 lake—boating & fishing 2 bowling centers—40 lanes 4 pool rooms—45 tables table tennis horseshoe courts roller skating</p>  	<p>8 golf courses 2 restaurants 5 snack bars 5 mini-golf courses 1 volley ball court</p> <p>1 handball/racquetball court 1 basketball court 1 pickle ball court</p> <p>Sun Bowl with seating for 7,000</p>  	<p>19 tennis courts 5 fitness centers 2 walk-jog tracks 1 softball field 15 Bocce courts 7 lawn bowling greens 24 indoor & outdoor shuffleboard courts picnic ramadas park with walking paths</p>  
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RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY

Groups plan co-orientation



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Phyllis Roach of the Sun City Home Owners Association, Paul Herrman, rear, of the Visitors Center and Art Little of the Recreation Centers of Sun City are working together to develop an orientation program to inform new residents what's available when they move here.

New residents will soon have a way to acquaint themselves with all Sun City has to offer.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board, the Sun City Home Owners Association board and the Sun City Visitors Center, along with other area organizations, are developing an orientation program for newcomers to the community.

Sun City leaders involved in planning it will meet at 1 p.m. Nov. 18 in Social Hall 2 at the Lakeview Recreation Center to consider ideas and select three dates next year when the orientation will be conducted, said Art Little of the RCSC board.

"It's a planning meeting to get everybody on board and find out who's going to do what," Little said.

The orientation program's purpose is to familiarize new residents with the quasi-governmental organizations in the community and the volunteer opportunities and services that are available.

"We're inviting as many service people as possible" to the planning meeting, he said.

Little said the goal is to involve volunteer and nonprofit groups in the process, including the PRIDES, Sun City Posse, Sun Health, Visitors Center, Sun City Library, Sun City Fire Department, Sunshine Service, Interfaith Community Care and other Sun City clubs and organizations.

The need for an orientation program has arisen from two problems. One is that new residents often don't understand the history and culture of Sun City — that is, the community's unincorporated status and nickname, "City of Volunteers," Little said.

"The people that are coming into Sun City have an interest, but don't have an idea of the services available to them in Sun City," Little said.

For example, a new resident might not understand how the PRIDES operates, or that the Sun City Posse offers programs from which they could directly benefit.

"They don't know what's going on here and how to reach all the services," Little said.

People who want to volunteer lack clear, consistent information available through the various

organizations that need help, Little said. Little hopes an orientation program will help lend some credibility and consistency to the information new residents receive, he said.

A second problem is that some real estate agents sell homes without fully explaining to new owners how covenants, conditions and restrictions work and how the community is governed, said Phyllis Roach, HOA public-relations chairwoman.

"That's a part of it, mostly because we have people selling homes in Sun City that are not Sun City Realtors not fully disclosing to the new residents how things work," Roach said.

Roach said it is important that new residents understand what the HOA and Condominium Owners Association are, how the organizations work, and the differences between the umbrella organizations

in Sun City and their neighborhood HOAs and COAs.

The RCSC offered an orientation program previously under the direction of Activities Director Steve Wohlbruck, who died in January of a brain hemorrhage.

"He was the energy behind all of this when we decided to do the first one," Little recalled. "He passed away and took away all the energy from this thing."

In Wohlbruck's place, Sun City Visitors Center Executive Director Paul Herrmann has invested his energy, time and talents in the project, Little said.

Many people who are new to the community don't understand how the RCSC board operates, Herrmann said. And newcomers often don't realize that by paying for RCSC membership, they may use any of the organization's amenities, not just those near their homes.

Both Herrmann and Little recalled recent conversations with new residents who thought they were purchasing membership to one recreation center.

"One of my concerns is, as people move in and don't get involved in something right away, they might not get involved" at all, Herrmann said.

Roach pointed out that Sun City offers something for everyone, and said the orientation program can highlight those things.

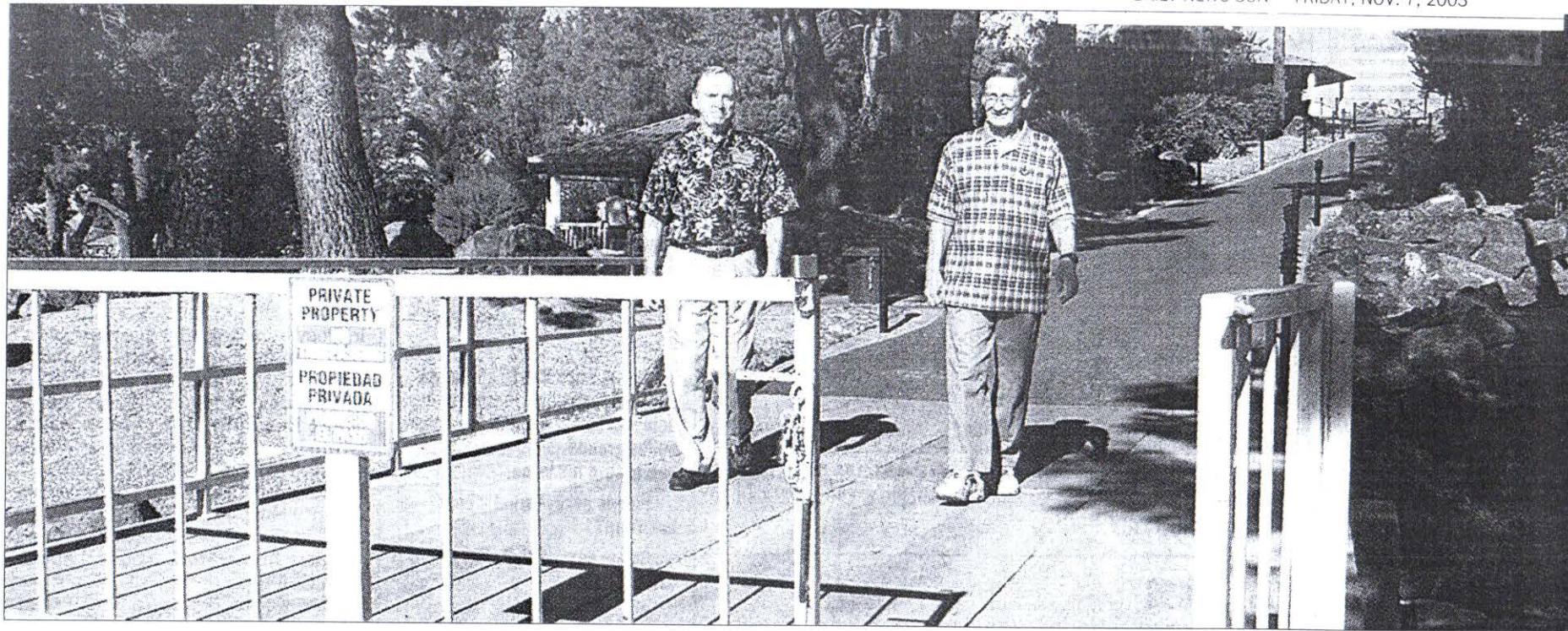
The planners envision a 2-2½ hour program held in a large room such as Sundial Auditorium, with large tables set up around the room offering brochures and information. There also will probably be refreshments, Herrmann said.

"It's really a program to let people who are newcomers know what we're about," Roach said.

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Refurbishing Sun City

DAILY NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, NOV. 7, 2003



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Earl Feierabend, left, director of operations for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, and Norm Dickson, board vice president, stroll the path at Viewpoint Lake Thursday morning. Lights have been added to the path and a pedestrian gate installed for security purposes.

Improvements fortify amenities

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Every recreation center and golf course in Sun City is in need of some sort of remodeling or refurbishing.

Some of facilities are more than 40 years old and are reaching the point where they need major work.

"All of them have some

serious problems — every center and every golf course," said Norm Dickson, vice president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City and chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Years of use and harsh environmental conditions, plus construction problems in some facilities, have created problems that RCSC staff are now forced to troubleshoot. Problems range

from electrical to structural issues, which create hazards for members and hassles for RCSC board members and staff.

In 2002, the RCSC board had to delay making some improvements to centers because of lack of funds, said RCSC Treasurer Bud Hantke. Those combined factors are what led Dickson to begin development of a Long Range Plan early this year.

The plan examines the future of Sun City facilities until 2010. It is designed to "systematically address the construction needs of the recreation centers and the golf courses," Hantke said. In addition, it includes proposed costs for the improvements, and includes ways to pay for them.

Long range history

The RCSC board

established a Capital Preservation Fund in 1999 to finance major improvements to facilities and golf courses. Just before that, in 1998, the Long Range Planning Committee was formed as the board anticipated the need for major capital-improvement projects, Dickson said.

In the past year, the

See SUN CITY, A6

RCSC panel prioritizes upgrades

This is the second of a two-part story on Sun City's first Long Range Plan. Today's story looks at how the plan will be funded, and what changes might be in store for future Sun City residents.

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

As the amenities of the Recreation Centers of Sun City age, board members are prioritizing needs and looking at ways to modernize them. With a proposed Long Range Plan, the RCSC board will need to provide funding for the changes.

Discussions so far have centered on a substantial increase in the centers' Capital Preservation Fee, and a modest increase in annual assessment fees. Any increases will be proposed in a December members/directors exchange, and will be voted on by the board in its regular December meeting.

Determining the order of changes

With each Sun City recreation center and golf course in need of some form of refurbishing or modernizing, it was not easy for the Long Range Planning Committee to determine in what order projects should be tackled.

It was equally challenging for the Budget and Finance Committee to estimate potential costs of the changes, said RCSC board Vice President Norm Dickson and Treasurer Bud Hantke.

The LRP committee first looked at the relative condition of each center and course. They asked the following questions: Are the walls falling down? Does the center have electrical or plumbing problems? Are there irrigation problems on the golf courses? Are the facilities adequately lit at night?

Member use was another factor determining the sequence of repairs, Dickson said. The age of each center was also taken into account. For example, they considered the fact Fairway and Oakmont recreation centers were the first two centers constructed by Sun City developer Del Webb.

Oakmont Recreation Center, built in 1960 and located at Oakmont Drive on North Golf Course, was the first center constructed by Del Webb, and it is the smallest of the centers. Fairway Center at 107th and Peoria Avenues was built in 1961, and has a larger number of clubs and activities, Dickson said. It is also in more urgent need of repair, with electrical problems and a lack of adequate club space.

Funding the Long Range Plan

Beginning with the 2004 budget, the Long Range Plan's first project is remodeling the pool and locker room area at Bell Recreation Center. Plans are also under way for remodeling Fairway Recreation Center.

"Construction will not start (next year), but there's so much planning that needs to be done," Hantke said.

Relocating the membership and clubs offices from Lakeview is also included in the plan, which calls for using the 7,000 feet of newly-opened space at Lakeview for membership activities, Dickson said.

The Budget and Finance Committee has developed a budget for funding the Long Range Plan, and will present it to the board along with the proposed 2004 budget in the December members/directors exchanges, Hantke said.

Currently there are two

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ways of funding capital improvements to the centers, Hantke said.

The Capital Preservation Fund was created in 1999 for funding repairs and upgrades that cost at least \$100,000 and have a functional use period of 15 years or greater, Hantke said. The fund is financed through a one-time \$700 fee charged to new Sun City property buyers upon the time of purchase. Money in the Capital Preservation Fund cannot be used for operating expenses, but is earmarked specifically for major improvements to the recreational facilities, Hantke said.

Additionally, there is a Capital Fund in the RCSC budget that provides for repairs, maintenance items and operating expenses. There are many items that make up the income stream for the RCSC, including food service, bowling fees, green fees, merchandise sales and more. The primary item is the lot assessment, Hantke said. After subtracting expenses, the difference is available for capital expenditures, Hantke explained.

In June 2003, Hantke said, members of the Budget and Finance Committee asked themselves, "If the corporation needs to increase revenue by \$1.5 million each year, what do you think should be the method of raising that revenue?" Hantke chose the \$1.5 million annual figure as a rough estimate of how much money could be required for implementing the Long Range Plan.

The proposed methods were: increasing the Capital Preservation Fund fee, increasing the annual lot assessment or creating special assessments for residents.

Budget and Finance Committee members concluded

"that we should increase the preservation fee substantially," Hantke said. The committee also proposed increasing the annual lot assessment "in a modest amount," he said. The committee did not recommend special assessments.

While the Budget and Finance Committee was making these conclusions, the Long Range Planning Committee, in determining ways to pay for the changes, also concluded that a substantial increase in the preservation fund fee and a small increase in the lot assessments would be the best method of taking on the task.

The Budget and Finance Committee has not yet determined a recommended amount of an increase, Hantke said. This will be determined and announced at one of the members/directors exchanges in December. The board will vote on the budget at its December regular meeting, Hantke said.

Board members say they are aware that increasing any fees or lot assessments will raise controversy among members. They point out that changes are necessary for many reasons, and without financing, they can't happen.

"We can sit here and twiddle our thumbs and let the facilities deteriorate, or we can do something about it," Hantke said.

Dickson gave examples of one-time Capital Preservation fees from neighboring communities, which fell in the average range of \$7,000 to \$9,000 per community — some as high as \$19,000, in Scottsdale, for example.

Even if Sun City were to raise its Capital Preservation fee, it would still be lower than those communities, he said. And raising that fee substantially puts some of the burden for modernizing Sun City's facilities on the new residents who will

directly benefit from the changes.

Of the 15 Sun Cities developments across the United States, Sun City, Arizona, has the lowest annual assessment. The highest Sun City lot assessment is at Great Island in Plymouth, Mass., where residents pay \$3,300 per lot annually. At \$150 per person annually, Sun City is still behind Sun City Grand and Sun City West; Grand residents pay \$675 annually, while West residents pay \$174 per person per year.

Once the budget is passed, if the changes are approved, they will go into effect Feb. 1.

Details of the Long Range Plan are still to come, Dickson said. The main reason for

change is to make sure the members are able to continue "the style of living they (currently) enjoy," and to prepare for the future, he said.

As new retirees weigh the multiple options available for resort-style retirement living, they have at least 25 choices in the Valley, he said. Without some sort of planning for the next decade in Sun City, the RCSC board and staff will continue to be faced with trouble-shooting decisions they will have to make as problems arise, and as money is available in the budget.

"To me, accepting this Long Range Plan is the future of Sun City," Dickson said.

Erin Reep can be reached at 876-2532 or at ereep@aztrib.com.

1,877 ballots counted in RCSC, HOA races

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Nadine Meis, Gene Zylstra and Raymond Kenneth "Ken" Fold have been elected to the Recreation Centers of Sun City board seats being vacated by President Dorothy Hirtzel and Directors Jerry Swintek and Tom Whiston.

In the Sun City Home Owner's Association election, George Davis, Mary-Jane Gibson and Devon Guthery were elected to fill three of the board of director's five open position.

Tuesday's election drew 1,877 ballots, which Helen Theil, board secretary, said is as low as previous years.

More than 42,000 residents were eligible to vote in the RCSC election.

The unofficial tally gives Meis 1,461 votes; Fold, 1,369; Zylstra, 1,063; and Paul Santoro, 987.

Fold is a 15-year resident and spent 22 years as an IBM financial analyst.

Meis has lived in the community for nine years and

owned and was president of Skating Professionals for 17 years.

Zylstra, an 18-year resident of Sun City, is a former RCSC and HOA director, and was president of an unincorporated HOA in Chicago.

In the HOA election, Gibson received 1,420; Davis, 1,393; Guthery, 1,324.

Executive Secretary Ione Boynton said the turnout was the lowest in recent years with only a small portion of the 12,000 members voting.

Davis has lived in Sun City for 16 years and retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a real-estate specialist.

Gibson, a resident since 1984, has volunteered for Westside Food Bank and Sun Health serves on the boards of the Sun City Republican Club and the Northwest Valley Republicans.

Guthery moved to Sun City in 1954 and was self-employed in the gasoline and automotive business in Glendale and west Phoenix for 45

See VOTER, A5

OVER

HOA winners



Davis



Gibson



Guthery

RCSC winners



Fold



Meis



Zylstra

From A1

Tuesday found Eddie and Joan Beyer saying they're unhappy with the current board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

Joan said she is opposed to the proposed increases currently being considered by the board for its 2004 budget and to fund a Long Range Plan. "They keep raising everything," Joan said.

Eddie, a long-time Garden Club member, was heartbroken when the club lost its garden plots this fall. He believes something more should have been done by the board to try to purchase the land.

So the Beyers took action for the first time in their 12 years as Sun City residents: They voted.

"We are just showing that we are of the people who disapprove of the board," Eddie said after voting at Bell Library Tuesday afternoon.

Festival.

Monty Langhamer voted at Bell Center Tuesday, and said she regularly votes, although not every year, for board candidates.

"I've lived here since 1973," she said.

When asked what he thought of the voter turnout this year, RCSC board candidate Zylstra said, "Stinky."

Zylstra was canvassing at a distance of 80 or so feet from the polling station in Social Hall 2 at Lakeview Recreation Center. He handed out fliers, encouraging people to vote as they walked past. Next to chairs covered with stacks of Zylstra's literature was a chair with fliers from candidate Meis.

"Are you going to vote today?" Zylstra joked with Jerry Klaus, shaking hands.

"I'm voting for you, Gene," Klaus said.

Klaus, a three-year Sun

Volunteers manning the elections Tuesday said voter turnout was low compared to years past.

Boynnton and Phyllis Roach of the Sun City Home Owners Association board took a break outside the HOA's board room, where polling took place on Tuesday.

"We had 17 (people voting) this morning," said Roach, the board's second vice president, at about 1 p.m. Roach had volunteered all morning.

Boynnton said she thought that was a low number compared to the flow of the voting day in 2002.

"Last year, we had 60-some, and most of the voting was done before 3 p.m.," she said.

The polls were open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday at five Sun City locations — at four recreation centers and the HOA. Early balloting was offered previously on Nov. 28-29 at the 32nd-annual Sun City Arts & Crafts

City resident, said this was his first time voting in board elections. "I'm new at this," he said.

Klaus said he was voting to stay active in the community: "I'm retired. What else have you got to do?"

Marge Looby was also casting her vote at Lakeview center. The 23-year resident said she votes every year.

Zylstra said his wife, Joan, was handing out fliers at the Bell Center. He planned to be at Lakeview all day until a pizza party in the evening for the candidates. Votes were to be counted in the evening; Zylstra said he would probably be in bed by the time they knew the results.

Turnout at the recreation centers' polls was "light," according to Gayle Schmidt, RCSC elections committee chairwoman.

Erin Reep can be reached at 876-2532 or ereep@aztrib.com.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2003

Sun Cities boards + get new members

Seats filled in Tuesday vote

By Brent Whiting
The Arizona Republic

Winners have been announced for seats on governing boards of three community groups, two in Sun City and one in Sun City West.

The outcome was never in doubt for seats on the Sun City Home Owners Association. It was a slam dunk for the three candidates, because four board slots were open.

Mary-Jane Gibson finished first in Tuesday's election with 1,420 votes, followed by George Davis with 1,393 and DeVon W. Guthery with 1,324.

The board will meet next year, after the new members have taken their seats, and decide whether to appoint somebody to the fourth position.

The HOA is a quasi-government group that acts as an advocate for Sun City residents and addresses a number of property, consumer, water and other issues with state and county officials.

In another contest, there were four candidates for three seats on the Recreation Centers of Sun City board.

Nadine Meis led the pack with 1,461 votes, followed by

Raymond Kenneth "Ken" Fold, 1,369, and Gene Zylstra, 1,063.

Paul Santoro, the unsuccessful candidate, finished last with 987 votes.

Members of the Recreation Centers Board oversee seven recreation centers in Sun City, as well as two bowling centers and eight golf courses.

In Sun City West, five of seven candidates were elected to the Property Owners and Residents Association board.

The slate of PORA winners were Wesley "Wes" Warren with 553 votes, Noah Murphy, 550, Mel Nuzum, 505, Jac Morse, 390, and Stephanie Elitz, 364.

The two unsuccessful candidates were Jerry Black, 319 votes, and E. Chris Segal, 307.

PORA is a quasi-government group that resolves deed-restriction violations and provides a consumer referral service and lobbying on senior citizen and community issues.

All of the winners of the three board contests in Sun City and Sun City West will serve three-year terms.

Reach the reporter at
brent.whiting@arizonarepublic.com or
(602) 444-6937.



Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.
"City of Volunteers"

April 20, 2001

Mrs. Louise Hurley, President
Sun City Round Dance Club
17433 Del Webb Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85373

FROM: Claude Elton Audit Section,
Legal Affairs Committee of the Rec. Centers of Sun City, Inc.

RE: Audit of 2000 Club Records

On March 29, 2001, I reviewed the 2000 records of the Sun City Round Dance Club with Louise Hurley, President and George Wall, Treasurer. The purpose of the audit was reviewed with both officers, who were well aware of the requirements set forth in the Red Book.

RECORDS:

The Club has been in existence since 1974. There were 56 members as of 12/31/2000, and current membership stands at 46. Because the club was chartered before the minimum was changed to 50 in 1996, the club membership is sufficient to meet the requirement. The club issues membership cards which are dated and include the expiration date and RCSC membership number.

The annual membership dues are \$2. Members are charged \$2.50 and guests \$3.00 for each event attended. In 2000, 970 members and 385 guests participated in the dances.

Form 1099:

Forms 1099 were properly filed for 2000. The club's Federal ID No. is 94-2463027.

Arizona Transaction Tax Form:

Sales tax is not applicable.

SUN CITY ROUND DANCE CLUB AUDIT, March 29, 2001

Financial Report:

The financial statement for 2000 was reviewed and found in good order. The bank balance carried forward to 2001 was compared to the check book and was found to reflect the proper balance.

A checking account for the club is maintained at the Matrix Bank. Both the president and treasurer have check signing authority. Deposits are made as soon as possible, usually the day after the dance. The deposit includes all fees charged (membership, member dance and guest). The treasurer keeps a record of the total income and a breakdown by category so that the income is separated.

The cuer works on a contract basis and is paid a flat fee of \$50.00 or 80% of the income, whichever is greater for each dance. Payment is made by check. Previously the cuer was paid in cash but this was changed in 2000 when the present treasurer took over in the middle of the year.

Summary:

The Club does not own property. All equipment is furnished by the cuer. Activities are scheduled from early October to mid-April. These are submitted to the club office for approval each year.

The review did not disclose any weakness in the operating procedure. The treasurer and president are both familiar with the requirements set out in the Red Book. No recommendations are made since it appears that everything is running very well.

Your club's cooperation and assistance during the audit was appreciated. Questions should be directed to the either of the undersigned at 876-3000, extension 1020.

Sincerely,



Claude Elton,
**AUDIT SECTION, LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.**

History of the Circle Dancers

(Memories of Nell and Marlin (Wink) Wilkinson)

We moved to Sun City in 1975 and at that time there was only one Couples Round Dance club cued by Maurice and Lois Siebert. It was a large club - 550 members! I say couples club because Lois did not want women dancing together so Eddie Waddell cued a dance club just for the women called the . In 1977 Roy Folino and his wife Mary broke away and with others formed the Circle Round Dance Club and hired Roy Cline and Janet as the cuers. Wink had goofed with Roy so we changed and started dancing with the Circle Dancers. Roy was an excellent teacher and Janet was so sweet and tactfull when she helped anyone. Roy had one fault - sometimes he drank too much but the dancers who danced with him NEVER saw him cuing when he wasn't sober and very good. He wanted members to have fun and we did! I can't find the date when the Sieberts quit cueing and the Sun City Round Dance club broke up. But it seems about that time that we remember a large meeting and a difficult meeting when Roy Cline was ousted and ~~Bill~~ Adam and Margie Arnot took over. They said that Roy drank and in spite of many speaking to the contrary they were ignored. It was a sad night and Janet was in tears and Wink and I would rather not have been there. Then in 1993 The Arnots quit and Bill and Dorothy Stewart became our cuers. in 1994.


Recreation Centers of Sun City INC.

10626 THUNDERBIRD BOULEVARD
SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85351

December 13, 1977

Mr. Roy Folino, By-Laws & Committee
Chairman
Sun City Circle Dancers
14204 Baywood Court
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Dear ^{Roy} Mr. Folino:


The Board of Directors of Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., approved the charter application and by-laws of the Sun City Circle Dancers dated November 15, 1977, as recommended by the Club Organization Committee. They did not recommend an extension of the time for your meetings.

Please make sure you clear all dates and other items with Mrs. Abrisch, our Office Manager.

Sincerely yours,

/s

cc: Mr. Bear, President
Mr. Vettel & Mr. Erickson,
Club Organization Committee
Mrs. Freeman, Club
Coordinating Committee
Coordinator


Jay S. M. Titus,
General Manager

New Square Dance Club Debut

Roy and Janet Cline, Sun City Round Dance instructors, will be teaching rounds for this community's newest Square Dance Club, the Sun City Spinners, when they make their debut Saturday, August 6, in Lakeview Rec Center.

The couple, who have taught beginning, intermediate, and advanced round dance classes in

Phoenix, Peoria, Glendale, and Sun City for the past year-and-a-half, began their career and involvement in Guadalajara, Mexico.

They currently conduct a workshop each Thursday afternoon, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and an advanced class from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in Bell Center. Howard Taylor will call the squares during the

August 6 dance.

The Clines will instruct intermediate round dancing from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., while square dancing is slated from 8 to 10 p.m. Round dancing will be cued between tips.

The emphasis during the instruction and dancing will be on the sheer fun involved.



ROY and JANET CLINE

FROM T.N.T. TO TIPPY-TOE

Ex-dynamiter now teaches Sun Citians round dancing

By FRED HAEUSER
Staff Writer

Roy Cline is a man who has learned to watch where he puts his feet and to tread carefully.

These are useful precautions, whether you are a dynamiter or a dancer. Roy Cline has been both in the past decade.

Sun Citians inclined to nervousness can be reassured: Cline has turned from TNT to terpsichore since moving from Florida to this community in 1971.

HE AND his wife, Janet, who live at 10308 El Rancho Dr., have become increasingly active in round dance instruction in the past several years. They conduct regular classes several times a week, both in Sun City and more recently in Phoenix.

How did a burly former truck driver, heavy equipment operator and blasting powder expert come to trade his heavy-soled brogans for dancing shoes?

The Clines sum it up as partly enjoyment of the dance, plus the satisfaction they obtain from teaching their round dance skills to others.

BUT FIRST, back to that dynamiting career...short but exhausting as it was.

Raised on a farm near Tribune, Kan., Roy Cline adapted naturally to machinery and tools. In the early '50s he was a cross-country trucker, hauling everything from refrigerated foods to furniture.

This occupation shifted to heavy construction work in the next 10 years when Roy became an operator of graders, dragline and backhoe equipment.

One day in 1968 Cline's employer, B.B. McCormick & Sons, a construction company, found need for a dynamiter. Roy, who until then had never fixed a detonator cap or cut a fuse, was sent to school to learn how not to blow himself up.

HE CAME out with one of the best records yet achieved.

In the process Janet Cline became (on paper) equally expert in dynamiting techniques. She studied with her husband and quizzed him at home nights.

Then began three years of endless toil and hazard for Cline. He bossed the dynamite detail on construction of a

canal needed to convey waste water from Florida Power & Light's Turkey Point nuclear plant from Homestead, Fla. to the ocean.

IN THE process a ditch five miles long, 160 feet wide and 30 feet deep had to be blasted from the solid coral which is Florida's underpinning in that area.

"We worked seven days a week, 10 hours a day without vacations for that whole three years," Cline recalls, "with double or triple time for weekends and holidays. There was no such thing as time off. We had a contract deadline to meet."

In addition to this brutal schedule, Cline drove a round-trip of 200 miles from his Miami home each work day. Mrs. Cline worked as an elementary school principal while all this was going on. They had very late suppers.

SOME dizzying statistics

are forthcoming on the "big ditch" project. Cline's men drilled at least 100 holes a night, each to receive two-foot, three-inch sticks of dynamite.

That combined explosion kept three six-yard draglines and their crews working 24 hours a day removing the blasted material.

"We used up to 5,000 pounds of dynamite a day," remembers Cline. "Close to 100,000 tons of muck and coral were hauled away every day."

CLOSE CALLS? Yes, Cline had one. It taught him, he says, "never to take anyone's word for anything" when you are handling dynamite.

Through a mix-up in signals, someone forgot to disconnect a section of detonating fuse, which exploded alongside the hull of a barge loaded with 750 cases of dynamite, enough to blow a major ship out of the water.

Cline was on the barge at the time. He said:

"I felt a tremor and almost an electric charge run from the deck through my body. A five-foot hole had been blown in the hull

above the waterline. Why the dynamite cargo did not go up we'll never know. It takes only 60 pounds of implosive force to set off uncapped dynamite."

THE RIGORS of the Florida job, plus a physical setback, prompted the Clines to relocate in Sun City six years ago. Their introduction to round dancing came soon after. For several years their enthusiasm was limited to personal participation at the local rec centers.

Then, while visiting Guadalajara, Mexico, in their motor home, the Clines enthralled a group of American retirees when they demonstrated round dancing with the aid of the portable battery-operated record player that always accompanies them. Their first dance class ensued.

The instruction bug hit both Roy and Janet. He has become an accomplished "cue-er" (the equal of a "caller" in square dancing), with over 100 dance routines memorized.

NOW, AT THE request of the Sun City Round Dance club, the Clines instruct several dozen couples every Thursday

afternoon and evening.

They also teach round dancing at the Sun City Spinners sessions Saturday nights at Lakeview Center and conduct a 16-week basic course for a Phoenix group.

The Clines really work at their dance routines, often for three to four hours a day in the 25-foot expanded Arizona room in their home.

They recently bought \$2,000 worth of new record playing and amplifying equipment. Roy uses a radio or "walkie-talkie" mike when he cues a dance.

Teaching comes naturally to Janet Cline. She has a masters and the equivalent of a Ph.D in education from the University of Miami and taught for 37 years, the last 14 as a principal.

Her master's thesis must have been a prophecy of things to come: In it she contended that dancing can be a means to achieving the 14 basic goals of education.

"I must have argued well," she said, "because I got an A-plus on the paper."

Ex-Transylvanian recalls scary tales of homeland

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Andrew Benyi has worn a variety of costumes since he moved to Sun City in 1976. He has not, nor never will, wear a red satin-lined black cape and make light of the Dracula legend, because he has been a visitor to his castle in Transylvania, also the region of his birth.

Benyi was born in Kiralyfalva (village of the King) as a Hungarian in the Carpathian Mountains, also known as Dracula Country.

Benyi has memories of tales of werewolves told by his aunts when he was a child, and he remembers the wolves howling in the moonlight during his youth and on trips back as a tourist.

WOLVES WERE ever-present near the sheepherding farm town where Benyi lived and in the nearby fields where he raised cattle and wheat and flax. "We had a loom at home and wove the thread and made our own clothing," he said.

Benyi remembers a report of a man who crossed a suspension bridge and was killed at the other side and eaten by wolves. And Benyi's aunt warned off wolves with a lantern on one occasion.

Benyi left Transylvania to follow his parents to America. He came to Canton, Ohio, in 1921, then moved to Detroit in 1925, and in 1929 he met his future wife of 55 years, Rosemary, who had once

lived about 250 miles from where Benyi was born.

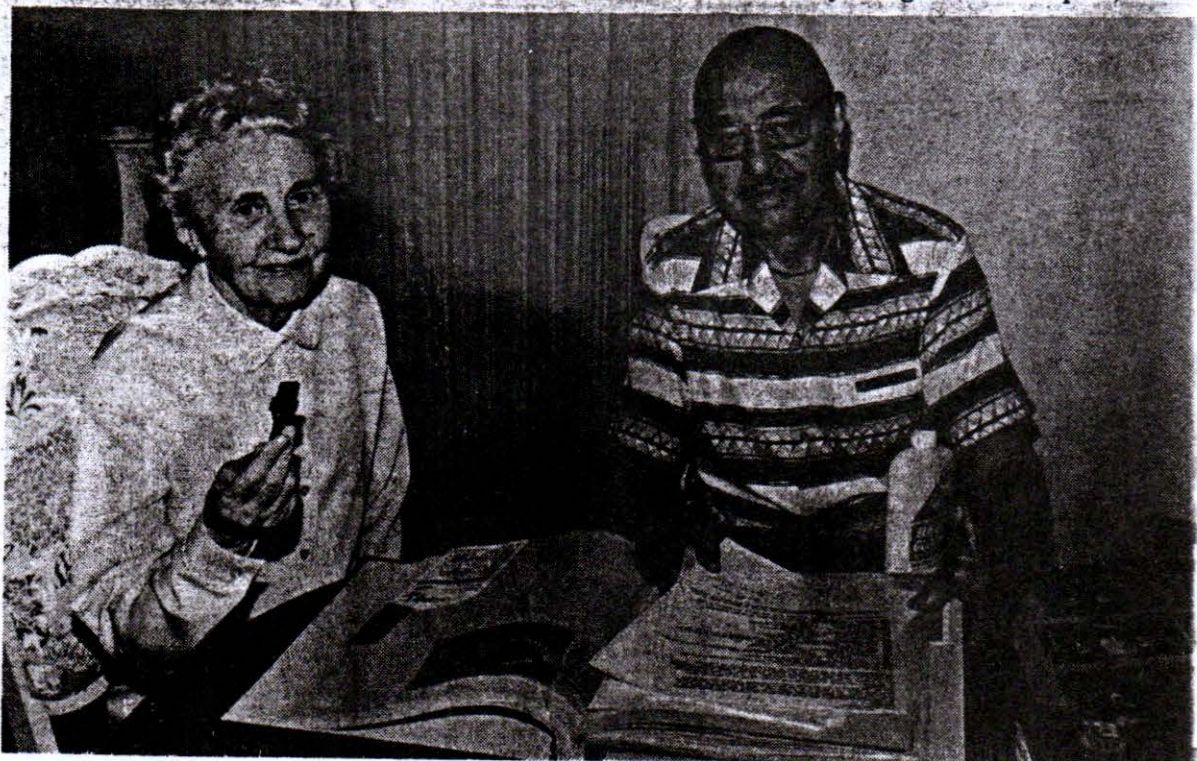
"**ROSEMARY WAS** terrified when we countered wolves in a pack on the road during visit to Transylvania in 1965," said Benyi, who worked for the Grant Trunk Western Railroad messenger and later in freight rates interpreting interstate commerce tariffs. He retired as superintendent after 48 years of service, moving to Sun City in 1974.

The Benyi garage is full of storage areas with walls covered with photos, bulletin boards and mementoes of the players and the many trips Benyis have taken to the area of Romania called Transylvania.

In 1960 Benyi went alone; in 1965 he and wife went; in 1980 he slept in the house in which he had been born on a trip with his son Bob and his wife; in 1982 son Joseph and his wife went.

AS TOURISTS IN Romania they visit Bucharest, a city taken over in 1476 by the 15th century Prince Vlad Dracula Tepes, romanticized by Bram Stoker as a blood-sucking monster in novel "Dracula."

The 15th century Vlad was indeed bloodthirsty, in a different way. Vlad is a hero, a warrior who routed his enemies the Turks. He took land from the wealthy and gave it to the poor, enforced



recalls meland

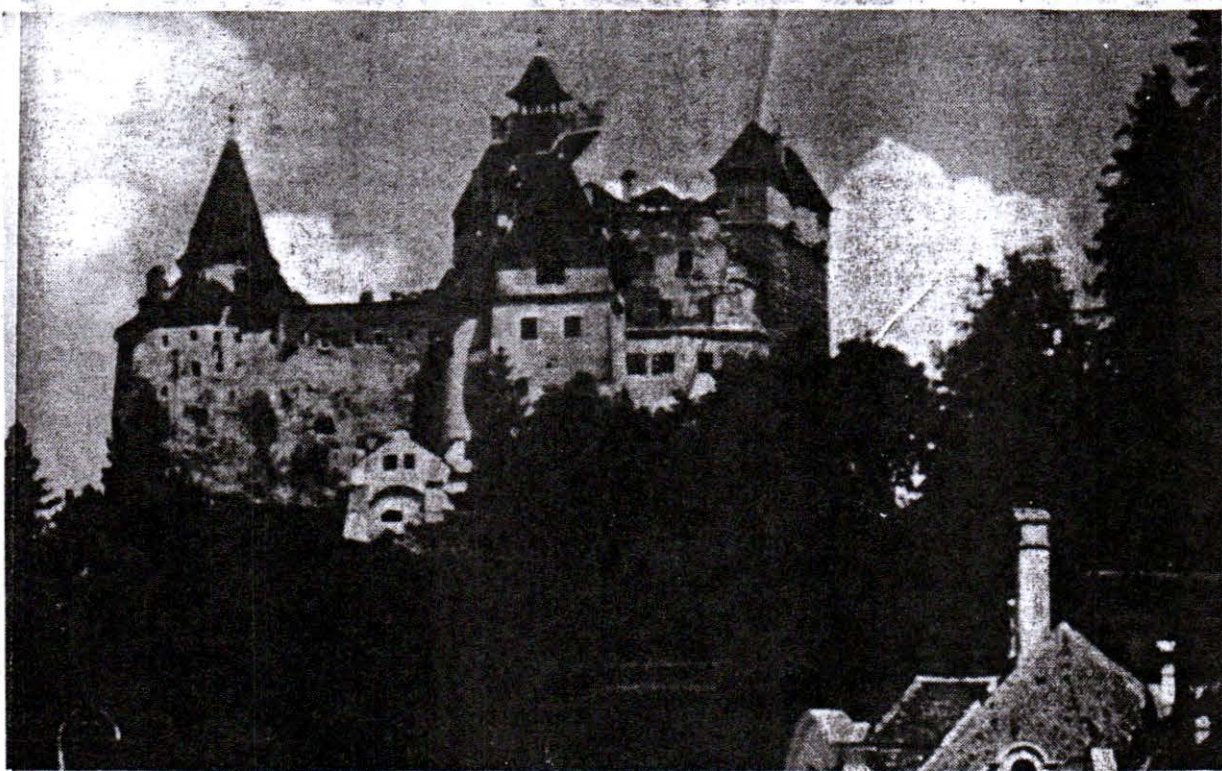
om where Benyi was born. "I was terrified when we encountered a bandit on the road during our trip in 1965," said Benyi, who worked on the Trans-Silvania Railway as a freight rates interpreting clerk. He retired as supervisor, moving to Sun City in 1970.

Benyi's home is full of storage areas with photos, bulletin boards and maps and the many trips the area of Romania called

alone; in 1965 he and his wife went to the house in which he was born on a trip with his son Bob and daughter-in-law and his wife went.

In Romania they visited the site of the castle over in 1476 by the 15th century, romanticised as the blood-sucking monster in his

Benyi was indeed bloodthirsty. Vlad is a hero, a warrior who fought the Turks. He took land from the rich and gave it to the poor, enforcing



The Citadel Bran, known to tourists as one of the infamous Count Dracula castles.

his own kind of law and order.

If Vlad was crossed by anyone, including his own soldiers, he skewered them on sharp stakes—history recorded that he impaled thousands during his reign—earning the title The Impaler.

ROMANIA'S TRAVEL industry, taking advantage of the 1969 announcement by scholars that there really had been a Count Dracula, now makes it possible to take tours to sites connected with Dracula, camping if you will in a meadow below one of his castles high in the Transylvanian Alps at Bran.

Benyi and his wife were among those small enough to climb a secret stairwell inside the back entrance to the castle/museum. They took it all the way to the top of the medieval building, built in 1377, and occupied only a few years by the bloodthirsty ruler.

Benyi was told there was also an escape tunnel through the water well. He remembers that the rooms, not electrified during their visit, are "very eerie," as is the nighttime view of the edifice which sits on a hill separated from the town.

THE BENYIS ARE proud of their Romanian heritage. They bemoan the fact that in 1961 after 40 years of life under communism, the streets of his hometown still had not been paved and that there were no sidewalks.

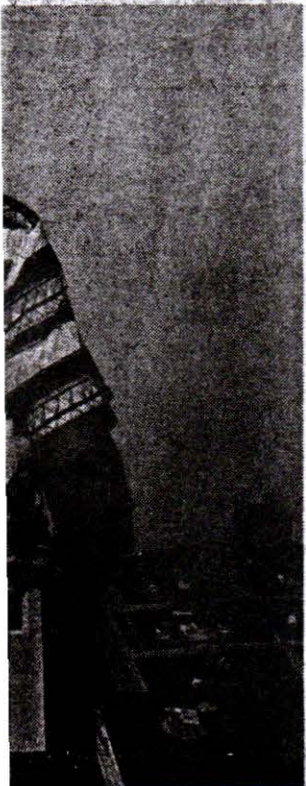
In the fashion of the historian, Benyi has researched the origin of longhorn cattle, the customs of gypsies and the Dracula legend.

But he will never dress up as the infamous Count, even though he probably knows more about him than most in this part of the world.

BENYI WOULD RATHER be dancing than acting out the role of this infamous character in Transylvanian history.



Andrew and Rosemary Benyi perform a Ciardas (folk dance) at the Gypsy Festival held here several years ago by the Sun City Players.



ania. (News-Sun photo)

Fan Cuers Spouse

"DOROTHY'S JOB DESCRIPTION" For Sun City Circle Dancers

Work with officers and club to prepare club's dance program and schedules.
Schedule dance classes/workshop & dance for club & dancers
Prepare advertising for club.

Be prepared to answer any and every question pertaining to round dancing in area.

Be prepared to demonstrate figures and steps in every phase you teach.

Be at the dance to sign dancers and try to be acquainted with everyone.
Have a great memory! Don't call Bob, Rip or Frank, Ernie, if you can help it! Try to not grab at their money!

Keep track of the number of dancers, guests or visitors, so that officers can keep a count of attendance. In case they want to have a party!

Be ready to wrestle the mike from Mort, Homer, Nell, or Maggie!
It also helps if you can sing Happy Birthday off key!

Keep all addresses of records companies, round dance magazines, electronic companies, shoe companies, square & round dance shops, etc.

Keep an address and telephone directory of everyone you have had in your dances/classes/workshops or anyone who is remotely interested in taking lessons from you. You never know when you might need it.

Order records for cuer when he finally gets a list made up.

When cuer decides what he will teach, get cue sheets after you try to guess how many dancers will want them.

Try to answer intelligently when cuer asks a question, act like you are listening to him all the time.

See that cuer gets plenty of rest (thats why you answer the questions)!

Prepare healthful meals. Make sure cuer gets all the food he is fond of so that he will be pleasant when he is cueing. Also helps him from burping.

See that you are dressed to match. Keep the cuers clothes washed and ironed.

Make sure that the cuer has comfortable shoes and that they are polished.

Take care to cut his hair because when it gets too long it loses its curl.

Remind him to check his equipment and items he takes to dance and workshop/classes.

When you have done all that take care of your clothing, hair, (equipment), and yourself.!

Most important! Be sure you know where Fred the maintenance man hides out, so that you can get into the building, have him turn the temperature up or down, etc. He makes my life exciting!

Above have FUN. I do!